

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

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Cuban youth leaders' visit

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 56/NO. 43 NOVEMBER 27, 1992

U.S. tariffs on Europe raise trade war threat

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Since the U.S. government announced plans to impose stiff tariffs on white wines and other products starting December 5, several governments from Europe have engaged in a flurry of activity to try to avert an all-out trade war between the United States and European Community (EC) nations.

These developments have also revealed deep divisions among the imperialist powers within Europe on how to respond to

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Washington's trade sanctions.

"Although the U.S. and the European Community are exchanging strong words, and headlines warn of a trans-Atlantic trade war," a November 10 *Wall Street Journal* article notes, "a bigger obstacle to a trade accord may be that the EC nations are quarreling among themselves."

Washington's November 5 announcement that it will impose a 200 percent tax on \$300 million worth of European exports to the United States was in response to the refusal of EC nations to agree to sharply reduce their production of oilseeds.

EC officials have sought a compromise based on reducing the number of acres allotted to oilseed production. Washington has termed this move insufficient, arguing that because of increased productivity yields per acre, this would not amount to much of a cut.

Oilseeds — which include soybeans, sunflower seeds, and rapeseed — are used for cooking oils as well as in animal feeds and industrial lubricants.

The United States is the world's largest



Workers in a vineyard in France. Washington is demanding Europe cut its oilseed production and has set a December 5 deadline for imposing a 200 percent tariff on the import of \$300 million worth of European wine and other agricultural products.

oilseed producer, accounting for 63 million tons out of a world production of 86 million tons in 1991. It is also the world's biggest exporter, selling more than 18 million tons last year. The EC is the world's biggest oilseed importer, although in recent years competition from EC nations themselves has led to a declining share of this market for the giant U.S. capitalist trading monopolies.

The new dispute threatens to torpedo the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks, the current round of which started in Uruguay in 1986 and involves 105 countries.

In response to Washington's announced trade sanctions, the French government demanded the EC prepare a list of retaliatory tariff measures to be levied against the United States. EC foreign ministers, however, led by Douglas Hurd of Britain, rejected this proposal and instead narrowly voted, by a 7-5 majority, to resume negotiations with the United States.

The French demand for reprisals was backed by Spain, Greece, Portugal, and Belgium. Germany joined with Britain in arguing that such a move would undermine chances for an EC agreement with the United States.

"While Britain and France have faced off," the *Wall Street Journal* commented, "Germany, without whose support no EC initiative seems possible, is paying lip service to the British free-trade goals at the same time it hides behind France's protectionist stance."

The capitalist rulers of Germany find themselves in a contradictory position. They deeply fear the effects of an emerging trade war with Washington. Germany's trade represents a third of its gross national product.

Germany also remains Europe's leading

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Trinity strikers win support as company attacks grow

BY DENISE McINERNEY
AND BETSY FARLEY

BESSEMER, Alabama — "The police are acting like they own Bessemer, the way they are harassing these people who are just trying to defend their union. I saw them arrest two boys out here yesterday, one Black and one white, and they hadn't done anything!"

That's how one Bessemer resident who lives across the street from the Trinity Industries plant here described the scene from her front porch every day. "I'm with the union all the way," she continued, "But the police are acting like they can do whatever they want, pushing people around and treating them like children."

For two months now, members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 9226 have been on strike against Trinity Industries, the nation's largest producer of rail cars. The issues are medical insurance costs of \$56 per week, wages, and pensions. The union added another demand recently — amnesty for union members the company has fired for "strike violations" during the walkout. "We will not go back until they let everybody go back, that's the way everybody feels," said Sandra Florence, the local's financial secretary.

Police arrest strikers

Eight strikers have been arrested by Bessemer and Birmingham police on charges ranging from "malicious littering," to discharging firearms and assault. These frame-up charges are an attempt to paint the strikers as violent. The union is discussing plans to mount a defense for the arrested strikers.

In addition, Trinity has been employing private "investigators" from C.P. Fredericks, supposedly to assist in collection of evidence of strike-related violence on the picket line. These hired thugs have been riding around in cars brandishing shotguns, and threatening strikers. In one instance they ordered three strikers to lie down on the ground while holding guns to their heads.

On November 9, the company requested that Jefferson County judge Roger Holcomb further restrict the union's ability to

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Join fight to complete fund appeal and 'Militant' subscription drive!

Between now and the first week in December, supporters of the *Militant* around the world will be fighting on two fronts to put this paper in a better position to meet the political challenges ahead.

At a meeting in New York held November 7-10, leaders of the socialist movement from across the United States and five other countries made a series of decisions to mobilize every possible supporter to make and surpass the goals of

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR TO OUR READERS

the George Novack Reconstruction Fund and the International Campaign to Win New Readers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *New International*, in full and on time. Both campaigns are significantly behind schedule.

Leaders of the Socialist Workers Party trade union work have decided to postpone a series of scheduled meetings to focus all their energies on completing successfully the two campaigns.

December 1 marks the conclusion of the George Novack Fund appeal. Sup-

porters of Pathfinder Press and the *Militant* have pledged most, but not yet all, of the funds needed to complete the latest stage of the reconstruction of the printshop where the *Militant*, Pathfinder books, and other weapons for working-class fighters are produced.

These funds are urgently needed to turn a beautiful new factory space into an integral part of the Pathfinder printshop operation. Heating and air-conditioning units, vital for comfortable working conditions and for quality printing, have to be paid for and installed. Remaining plumbing, electrical, and machine installation work has to be done. Without every penny of the \$150,000 target of the George Novack Fund, and more, this job cannot be completed. Public meetings (see advertisement at right) are being held November 21 in San Francisco, Miami, Houston, and Atlanta to help raise the needed funds.

At the same time, supporters are making an all-out effort to expand the long-term readership of the socialist press, by reaching the targets for the current drive for new subscribers to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and for single copy sales of the magazine *New International*.

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San Francisco Sat., Nov. 21

HOW THE 1992 ELECTIONS HID THE REAL POLITICAL ISSUES AND PREPARED DEEPENING AGGRESSION BY WASHINGTON

Hear Jack Barnes, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party

Program 6:30 p.m., dinner 4:30 p.m.

Local 34 International Longshore and Warehouse Union hall, 4 Berry St.
Donation: program \$5, dinner \$6. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

On the same topic:

Houston

Speaker: Norton Sandler, business and promotions director, Pathfinder Press.

Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.

4806 Alameda.
Tel: (713) 522-8054.

Miami

Speaker: Steve Clark, editorial director, Pathfinder Press.

Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.

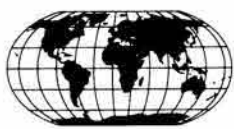
137 NE 54th St.
Tel: (305) 756-1020.

Atlanta

Speaker: George Fyson, managing editor, the *Militant*.

Sun., Nov. 22, 5:00 p.m.

172 Trinity Ave. SW
Tel: (404) 577-4065.



Mexico deports 65,000

During the first 10 months of this year 65,000 undocumented workers, mostly from Central America, have been deported from Mexico to their countries of origin. Last year the Mexican immigration agency deported 72,000 undocumented workers, of an estimated 400,000 foreign workers who entered the country through its southern border.

Caterpillar offers unpaid leaves

Claiming financial hardship, Caterpillar Inc. is offering some of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union members who struck the heavy equipment producer last winter up to a year off without pay.

A small percentage of the 2,800 workers at Caterpillar's factory complex in East Peoria, Illinois, are eligible for the leave.

Union workers cannot afford a year without pay after the five-and-a-half month strike and lockout at Caterpillar plants that ended in April, said Jerry Baker, bargaining chairman for UAW Local 974.

North Korea invites investment

The parliament of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) unveiled a new law that will allow foreign investors to set up their companies in special economic zones with a corporate tax rate of 14 percent. The law permits foreign concerns to remit part of their profits abroad and guarantees property rights and compensation in case of "unavoidable" nationalization.

Under the new law, foreign-owned companies can also lease land for up to 50 years in economic zones established last December. These firms will be exempt from tariffs on imported goods, except those designated by the DPRK. Companies involved in high-technology industries, resource development, and infrastructure construction will be given tax concessions.

Colombia declares emergency

President César Gaviria declared a 90-day national state of emergency in Colombia November 8. Severe restrictions have been placed on freedom of the press and



Keith Meinhold returns to naval base in California after successfully suing for reinstatement in Navy. Meinhold was discharged from Moffett Field Naval Air Station after publicly announcing he was a homosexual.

other democratic rights. The military has been given the power to function as the country's police force.

Gaviria said his government is taking these measures to use a "heavy hand" against guerrilla forces and drug traffickers that operate in Colombia. The state of emergency was announced the day after 26 police officers died in a confrontation with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group at an oil field near the border with Ecuador.

Mexico sets beef tariffs

The Mexican government has announced new tariffs on beef and cattle. The Mexican livestock industry, said a Mexican Embassy

statement, "faced a drastic and unjustified down-scaling" because of imports. The amount of beef imported into the country jumped 513 percent between January 1989 and July 1992, the statement said.

At the same time the Mexican government reiterated its support for "free trade" with the United States.

U.S. cattlemen and two legislators from beef-producing states warned that the tariffs could undermine U.S. congressional support for the North American Free Trade Agreement recently signed by the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Wilfredo Santiago exonerated

Common pleas court judge William Mazzola has ruled that all charges be dropped against Wilfredo Santiago in the murder of Philadelphia police officer Thomas Trench. Santiago served six years in prison after being framed up and convicted for Trench's murder. Santiago, who is Puerto Rican, was released in

March. The prosecution and the police were shown to have altered evidence presented against Santiago at his trial.

Numerous protests have occurred in Philadelphia's Puerto Rican community against Santiago's frame-up. Many press articles have also pointed to the flimsiness of the evidence presented by the prosecution.

During the six years Santiago spent in prison, the prosecution withheld evidence that would have exonerated him of the police officer's murder.

Rights abuses continue in Turkey

The human rights organization Amnesty International reports that political killings and torture continue unabated in Turkey.

At least 100 unarmed civilians in south-east Turkey — a predominantly Kurdish region — have been killed this year by security forces shooting peaceful demonstrators or randomly firing on residential areas. In the past 12 months more than 100 Kurdish men — journalists, local politicians, and others — have been fatally shot in "mysterious murders." Many had previously been threatened, detained, or tortured by the police. There is growing evidence that security forces colluded in such killings and may instigate them, the human rights organization said.

The government of Turkey has been waging brutal battles against Kurdish fighters near the southeast border with Iraq.

Court okays AIDS benefit cuts

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review a New Orleans federal appeals court

ruling that said self-insured companies are not barred by the federal employee-benefit law from reducing health insurance coverage for workers with AIDS. More than half of all workers in the United States are employed by self-insured companies, which use their own assets to pay workers' claims. Most big companies are self-insured.

The New Orleans appellate court upheld a trial judge's ruling that an employer may slash coverage for AIDS-related treatment as long as the company is motivated by a desire to save money, rather than animosity toward AIDS sufferers.

Russia crushed under debt

The Russian government said it could only make about 10 percent of its \$50 billion foreign debt payments due through next year. This amount reflects its share of the former Soviet Union's \$70 billion foreign debt.

The administration of President Boris Yeltsin is seeking a two-month delay in this year's debt payment of \$20 billion to its foreign creditors. It says it can pay only \$2-\$2.5 billion, and next year will be able to pay \$3 billion of the \$30 billion owed.

At the same time Russia's currency, the ruble, fell to a new low of 393 to the dollar, while a government report said industrial production in September was down almost 30 percent from a year earlier.

Norway's banks in crisis

The Norwegian government is taking far-reaching steps to bail out the country's three biggest banks. Dnorske Bank, Christiania Bank and Fokus Bank are negotiating with the state-backed bank insurance fund to obtain further capital support.

Tormod Hermansen, the head of the fund, called on the banks to cut costs by 15 percent. The bank employees' association called a one-hour strike November 13 to protest the further layoffs. The association says a 15 percent cut in costs would mean the loss of 2,000 jobs. The Norwegian banking industry has already laid off more than 8,000 workers in the last five years.

Israel's biggest firm in trouble

Israel Aircraft Industries, the country's biggest company, has announced it is seeking \$180 million in emergency financial aid from the government to stay afloat following a collapse in sales over the past six months.

The company plans to cut its 17,000-strong work force by 1,500 and wants to cut wages by 10 percent.

This follows demands from Israel Military Industries, another state-owned arms-maker, which manufactures the Uzi machine gun, for a \$350 million rescue package. The company plans to cut its work force by 40 percent to 4,500.

— SELVA NEBBIA

Steve Halpern and Joe Kleidon from Philadelphia contributed to this column.

THE MILITANT INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO WIN NEW READERS

How Cuba is confronting the crisis of the 1990s

How are the Cuban people taking on the problems created by the U.S. embargo and the collapse in trade with Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union? What are the discussions among Cuban workers and youth today? The 'Militant' is a source of news and analysis that can't be found anywhere else. Don't miss a single issue.



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The Militant

Closing news date: November 16, 1992

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Published weekly except for next to last week in December and biweekly from mid-June to mid-August by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040; Modem, 924-6048; Telex, 497-4278.

Pacific edition printed in Wanganui, New Zealand, by Wanganui Newspapers, Limited.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Subscriptions: U.S., Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$45, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (air-mail), send \$80. Barbados: Send \$75Bds for

one-year subscription to P.O. Box 891, Bridgetown, Barbados. Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Canada: send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Société d'Éditions AGPP, C.P. 340, succ. R, Montréal, Québec H2S 3M2. Britain, Ireland, Africa: £35 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. Belgium: BF 3,000 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of 1Mei Fonds/Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp. Iceland: Send 4,400 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík. Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 400 Swedish kroner for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9. New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. Australia: Send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box 79, Railway Square Post Office, Railway Square, Sydney 2000, Australia. Philippines, Pacific Islands: Send Australian \$75 or New Zealand \$100 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Cambodia peace plan begins to fall apart

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The United Nations "peace plan" in Cambodia is rapidly crumbling. Khmer Rouge forces have refused to begin to disarm by a November 15 deadline, as they had agreed one year ago.

The Cambodian government called on the United Nations to give up the disarm-

ment 1 million were slaughtered. Cambodia has a population of 8.5 million. After the overthrow of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime by Vietnamese troops in 1979, the Khmer Rouge carried out a bloody guerrilla war against the Cambodian government, with diplomatic support from Washington.

The other two signers of the agreement are the right-wing Khmer People's National Liberation Front headed by Son Sann, and the backers of Prince Sihanouk, the former monarch of Cambodia.

Beyond simply refusing to disarm, the Khmer Rouge have repeatedly violated the cease-fire agreement over the last seven months, including by firing on UN helicopters and sabotaging bridges. The Khmer Rouge forces have doubled their territory in recent months and are now said to control about 15 percent of Cambodia, mostly in areas rich in gems and other resources near the northern border with Thailand.

UN officials have responded to these actions

by announcing their intention to exclude the Khmer Rouge from the elections, which no one thought they had a chance to win in the first place. Untac has also threatened to impose "economic sanctions" by closing the Thai border to the millions of dollars of trade in gems and timber from which the Khmer Rouge profits.

Thailand's foreign minister said October 26 that his government would go along with any UN sanctions, but also claimed they would be very difficult to enforce. Thai troops patrolling the border area earn "protection money" from businessmen who deal with the Khmer Rouge.

A growing fiasco

The situation in Cambodia is a growing fiasco for the imperialist powers represented by Untac. In an attempt to cut down on negative publicity, UN employees were ordered not to "comment on the political situation surrounding the mission [and] not give opinions on the progress of the peace plan."

The November 5 issue of the *Far Eastern Economic Review* explained that "Untac's attempt to crack down on negative assessments of the US\$2.8 billion peace plan and limit the damage to its image comes at a time when senior UN officials increasingly worry that they are slowly losing their grip on the year-old operation."



Yasushi Akashi, head of UN body now ruling Cambodia. Khmer Rouge forces refuse to disarm as UN demands.

ment plan November 3 so that the government can respond to attacks by the Khmer Rouge. Government troops, and two right-wing guerrilla forces separate from the Khmer Rouge, have gone along with the plan to some degree.

The agreement calls for all four parties involved to disarm 70 percent of their troops in preparation for elections next May.

The UN Security Council plan was signed in October 1991 by the Cambodian government and three opposition groups that had waged a 12-year war against it. The plan is intended to stabilize Cambodia by placing the country under UN control until the elections.

More than 20,000 UN-organized soldiers, police, and other so-called peacekeepers are now administering the country under the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac), alongside the Supreme National Council, a body made up of representatives of the government and the opposition groups. The UN troops run cantonments, where the demobilized soldiers are supposed to stay encamped, though few actually do.

Khmer Rouge continue fighting

The Khmer Rouge is the strongest of the three guerrilla forces. They carried out a reign of terror against the people of Cambodia from 1975 to 1979, in which an esti-

Media demands access to Haiti refugees detained at U.S. base

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

A lawsuit filed in federal district court in New York November 9 is demanding the right of the news media to have access to 290 Haitians still detained at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) had cleared all these refugees for entry into the United States to pursue their political asylum applications, but they are being held back on grounds that they or a close family member tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Some have already been detained in these prison-like conditions for almost a year.

The suit, filed by several journalists and news publications, including the *Nation* and *QW* magazine, charges four top government officials — the attorney general, INS commissioner, secretary of defense, and commander of the U.S. base in Guantánamo — with violating the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights.

No journalists or independent observers have been allowed to visit the Haitian refugees on the base since May 24, the day President George Bush issued an executive order instructing the U.S. Coast Guard to seize on the high seas and forcibly repatriate

all Haitians fleeing their country. Lawyers have also been barred from the refugee camp.

Living conditions for the Haitians still at Guantánamo are horrendous. "People live in wooden barracks, 15-20 each, in stifling heat with poor sanitary conditions and inadequate food," stated Dan Coughlin, a plaintiff in the suit and editor at the New York bureau of Inter Press Service Third World News Agency. Already one young child died of pneumonia caused by flooding in the barracks.

Military represses protests

In July and August the Haitians organized several protest actions, which were met with harsh repression. "Following a peaceful march on July 17," writes Coughlin in the *New York Village Voice*, "some 2,000 soldiers surrounded the camp, handcuffed the protesters, and beat them with aluminum batons." Tanks, dogs, and military jet aircraft to "buzz" the Haitians have reportedly also been used.

Another protest at the end of August demanding the release of the Haitians who had been placed in special isolation camps as punishment for the July action resulted in

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"The general feeling is to get elections over with as soon as possible and get out before more damage is done to the image of the UN," one senior Untac official was quoted as saying. If that happens, the war is likely to start up again.

The prospect of renewed fighting in Cambodia is a major topic of debate in Japan. Tokyo has promised to send 1,800 troops to take part in the UN operation, allegedly in a noncombat role. A 600-man engineering battalion is already there, and the head of Untac, Yasushi Akashi, is a former Japanese diplomat. This is the first time since World

War II that Japanese troops have been sent outside of Japan.

Last June, after a two-year fight, the Japanese parliament voted to allow forces to be sent abroad as part of UN "peacekeeping" missions. Almost immediately after the parliamentary vote, the government announced its intent to participate in Untac.

Cambodia is shaping up to be a major test of whether Tokyo can take on a greater military role in today's world of increasing tensions and conflicts between capitalist powers. The law currently calls for a Japanese withdrawal if the cease-fire breaks down.

Rally supports appeal of jailed Native activist Leonard Peltier

BY JOE CALLAHAN

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Hundreds of supporters of Native American rights fighter and political prisoner Leonard Peltier rallied here to demand his freedom. They also expressed support for his legal appeal for a new trial, which was heard here November 9 before the 8th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Peltier, a leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and a former auto mechanic, was framed on murder charges after two FBI agents, Jack Coler and Ronald Williams, and one AIM member, Joe Stuntz, were killed in a gun battle in Oglala, South Dakota, on June 26, 1975.

At Peltier's 1977 trial, the government surrounded the jury with antiriot SWAT teams and transported them in a bus with blacked-out windows, supposedly to protect them from attack by Indians. This tactic proved successful, and the government got a conviction despite lack of evidence.

At the trial, the government withheld laboratory evidence that showed that the bullets did not come from Peltier's gun.

Peltier supporters came here from across the United States, from as far away as California and Washington state. Some traveled from other countries, including Canada, Germany, and Peru. Peltier's case has been presented before the United Nations Human Rights Commission every year since 1977.

AIM organized a rally November 8 at the American Indian Center in Minneapolis, as well as a rally in front of the courthouse before, during, and after the hearing. Several hundred supporters attended both actions.

Speakers at the November 8 rally expressed confidence that Peltier would soon win his freedom.

AIM leader Vernon Bellecourt pointed to the publicity Peltier's case has received on TV programs like "60 Minutes" and "West 57th Street."

In a message read at the first rally Peltier said, "In 17 years a lot of things go by you. You miss your children growing up." Peltier cited 1992 as a year of increased interest and genuine sympathy for the Native American struggle, and urged his supporters to stay united regardless of political differences.

A representative of the Prairie Island Mdewakanton Sioux community spoke about their fight to stop Northern States Power company from building a high-level radioactive waste dump on the site of their nuclear power plant, which is on the Mississippi River at Prairie Island, Minnesota.



Leonard Peltier

He said it would mean trucks with waste driving through Indian land. Their legal challenge was on the appeals court docket the same day as Peltier's hearing.

A message was read from Mark Curtis, an Iowa meat-packer, known for his defense of immigrant coworkers, who was framed up by the police on charges of rape and burglary. Curtis said in part, "In every prison I've been to in Iowa I've met inmates — Native Americans and others — who know about Leonard Peltier. Some prisoners carry articles about him among their letters from home, some get newsletters from his defense committee, one guy even had a photo of his brother posing with Leonard at Leavenworth [prison]."

"When Leonard is released, he will walk through those gates like Nelson Mandela, tall and unbroken, an inspiration to millions around the world to take up the struggle for freedom. The time to open the gates is now!"

Curtis sends message to demonstration backing Peltier

The following message was sent by Mark Curtis to the November 9 rally in St. Paul in support of Leonard Peltier, who is imprisoned in Leavenworth, Kansas. Curtis is a unionist and political activist framed up on rape and burglary charges, currently incarcerated in Ft. Madison, Iowa.

I congratulate Leonard's supporters today for their tenacity and I send my solidarity from the Iowa State Penitentiary to Leavenworth.

In every prison I've been to in Iowa I've met inmates — Native Americans and others — who know about Leonard Peltier. Some prisoners carry articles about him among their letters from home, some get newsletters from his defense committee. One guy even had a photo of his brother posing with Leonard at Leavenworth. A friend of mine was once denied a photograph from outside because it was a group of their friends posing with their "Free Leonard Peltier" T-shirts.

As I am a victim of a police frame-up, on rape and burglary charges, Leonard Peltier is an inspiration to me to continue to do what I was doing at the time of my arrest — to defend immigrant workers and unite the working class.

When they locked Leonard up, they thought they would break him and that he would be forgotten. They mistakenly believed that if they charged him with a crime like murder, the real aggression by the FBI at Wounded Knee [in 1973] would be overlooked. But that didn't happen.

Instead, when Leonard is released, he will walk through those gates like Nelson Mandela, tall and unbroken, an inspiration to millions around the world to take up the struggle for freedom.

The time to open the gates is now!

250 celebrate new Pathfinder printshop

BY PAUL MAILHOT

NEW YORK — More than 250 people attended a victory celebration here November 8, to help inaugurate the newly reconstructed section of Pathfinder's printshop.

The shop is part of the six-story Pathfinder Building that houses the national offices of the Socialist Workers Party; the editorial departments of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*; and Pathfinder Press, which publishes books by revolutionary and working-class leaders.

"This represents a victory for revolutionists and communists the world over," said Frank Forrester, a member of the Socialist Workers Party Political Committee and director of the printshop. "Completing this portion of the factory helps insure that the printshop will continue to produce new literature that can be used by working-class fighters worldwide."

"With this plant, we can now begin to work safer and more productively. We now have better working conditions to produce more political weapons, in a timely way, and with higher quality."

In the 10 days before the celebration, the printshop produced 21,755 books and pamphlets, including *To Speak the Truth*, a collection of speeches by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara at the United Nations; the pamphlet *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today*, by Mary-Alice Waters, printed in English, Spanish, and French; as well as *By Any Means Necessary* and *February 1965 — The Final Speeches*, both by Malcolm X.

Reconstruction ending for now

The reconstructed portion of the factory had previously been used as a warehouse for book and paper storage. Now that it has been renovated, it adds 4,000 square feet of modern production space to the printing plant.

Substantial work remains to be done on the existing, adjacent portion of the shop to rebuild it and upgrade the machinery used to produce the *Militant* each week, Pathfinder books and pamphlets, and a broad range of other printing jobs. However, funds to continue reconstruction have run out for now and the project is being wrapped up.

The remaining work on the new printshop



Audience applauds as brand new 5-ton lift table is unveiled.

Militant/Joo Peterson

area is scheduled to be finished by mid-December.

Even if the money were available today organizers of the reconstruction project would not immediately begin extensive work on the older section of the printshop. Discovering exactly what the next steps should be in renovating the entire factory will depend on experience in getting the newly expanded factory up and running, beginning with bringing back equipment that had to be temporarily placed in storage last summer to make the construction work possible. What's more, the shop simply cannot afford financially to continue working under the cramped and abnormal conditions that would be necessary to begin rebuilding other areas of the plant right away.

The project to renovate the Pathfinder Building began in April 1991. The first phase of the effort, completed this spring,

focused on reconstructing the editorial, business, and other offices on the sixth, fifth, and fourth floors of the building.

"We opened everything up," Ove Aspoy explained to the audience at the November 8 celebration. "We built modern offices with windows all around. New wiring and plumbing was installed. And an entire new phone system was brought in." Aspoy, one of the directors of the project, is an industrial worker who taught himself architectural skills in order to help plan the renovation.

"We built the top floors of the building so that there is hardly a space where you can't look out on the world," Aspoy said. "And the reconstruction crew made a commitment that we would build a printshop as open and beautiful as the upper floors. We have lived up to that pledge."

The most recent work of the volunteer crew turned the dingy warehouse on the

Charles Street side of the Pathfinder Building into a well-lit, climate-controlled factory space to do quality printing.

Four skylights and a large new window on the back wall open up the 4,000-square-foot area to natural light. In addition, high-powered industrial lighting has been installed. One hundred cubic yards of concrete were poured to level the floor, which previously sloped 18 inches from the front of the building to the back. Modern plumbing and electrical services, which will allow great flexibility in the ways the shop can be set up, were brought in. Very soon new heating and air conditioning units will arrive.

A new five-ton lift table was installed to carry equipment and materials between the new plant and the existing portion of the factory where the presses operate. To provide for the lift table, a large pit was dug out, and concrete poured.

The new facility will house the bindery, where the sheets that come off the presses are cut, stitched, glued, bound, and finished for shipment.

An international effort

Craig Gannon, the director of the reconstruction project, explained to the meeting that a brigade of volunteers comprising 117 men and women altogether have put in some 100,000 work hours to complete the project to this stage. Volunteers have come from 8 different countries and from 33 cities in the United States to lend a hand. Some brigade members were able to put in a stint when they got a little extended vacation time. Many others quit jobs and dedicated several months to the project.

"We couldn't have built this beautiful new factory and accomplished what we did on the top floors of the building without getting the volunteer help from international brigade members," Gannon said. "The other essential element was the response we got from particular individuals who had special skills and were willing to spend some time working, leading brigades, and training others."

Members of the brigade also spanned the generations. One high school student spent a summer working on the project. The oldest crew member was 64.

"The brigade was a good place to join the

George Novack Reconstruction Fund

Big push needed to reach fund goals

The George Novack Reconstruction Fund was launched in August at the International Socialist Conference at Oberlin, Ohio. Novack, who died July 30 at the age of 86, was a leader of the socialist movement in the United States for over half a century.

The aim of the fund is to raise more than \$150,000 by December 1. The Novack Fund finances the reconstruction project currently taking place in New York's Pathfinder Building.

BY PAUL MAILHOT

"We mapped out a plan to call everyone we thought would be interested in making a contribution to the Novack Fund. Once contacted, many people agreed that the books published by Pathfinder are very powerful tools for working people. We got quite a few extra pledges and many people who had already made pledges sent in big payments to get us on schedule." That's how Paul Montauk, who organizes the effort

for the George Novack Reconstruction Fund in San Francisco, described a three-week phone calling campaign that has put supporters in that city near the top of the chart.

"Mostly we've just been having a lot of long discussions with people. We called one supporter in Sacramento and talked to him about the reconstruction project. He sent in \$100," Montauk said. "At this point we have pledges to go over our goal."

Supporters in Salt Lake City, Utah, have also made some special efforts to reach out and work with friends of the socialist movement in Denver. Five contributors in the Denver area have pledged \$1,025.

Completion of both the George Novack Reconstruction Fund drive and the fall subscription and circulation campaign — in full and on time — is important for the next steps forward by the *Militant* and the Pathfinder printshop. Supporters around the world are pitching in to make the goals.

Special meetings are being organized around the country — addressed by national leaders of the work of the Socialist Workers Party, Pathfinder Press, and the *Militant* — to discuss the real meaning of the 1992 elections and push forward the drive to make the Novack Fund. These regional gatherings have already been held in New York and Chicago and are planned for San Francisco, Houston, Miami, and Atlanta.

A very successful meeting took place in Chicago November 16 where Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary, spoke. "We had over 130 people in attendance from throughout the Midwest," reported Kate Kaku. "Many young people who just recently came around the socialist election campaign as well as many longtime supporters of the socialist movement came to the meeting."

More than \$3,200 for the Novack Fund was collected. "We really worked at it to get a big collection at the meeting," said Kaku. "We called people and had discussions about the pressing need to pay the bills on the Pathfinder Reconstruction Project. We got several new pledges in addition to big payments on pledges that supporters had already made."

With about two weeks left in the drive supporters around the world are gearing up to get the extra pledges and collect the outstanding funds for a successful completion of the drive.

\$150,000



\$86,846

	PLEGGED	PAID	% PAID <small>Should be 85%</small>
UNITED STATES			
NEW HAVEN	\$500	550	110
SAN FRANCISCO	12,530	10,531	85
SALT LAKE CITY	6,500	4,457	69
DETROIT	7,000	4,609	66
ST. LOUIS	6,500	3,838	60
WASHINGTON, D.C.	4,950	2,885	59
PITTSBURGH	4,500	2,635	59
CLEVELAND	4,200	2,380	57
BALTIMORE	4,500	2,485	56
BOSTON	6,000	3,231	54
PHILADELPHIA	4,000	2,056	52
NEW YORK CITY	15,000	7,618	51
MORGANTOWN	3,000	1,390	47
CHICAGO	6,500	3,000	47
LOS ANGELES	15,000	6,912	46
GREENSBORO	3,000	1,350	45
TWIN CITIES	9,865	4,165	43
NEWARK	11,000	4,359	40
HOUSTON	6,000	2,280	38
SEATTLE	6,000	2,240	38
ATLANTA	5,500	1,900	35
MIAMI	3,250	1,010	32
DES MOINES	3,500	817	24
BIRMINGHAM	3,000	380	13
CINCINNATI	1,000	100	10
PORTLAND	750	0	0
U.S. TOTAL	153,545	77,178	51
GERMANY	1,429	1,429	100
BELGIUM	1,100	1,100	100
FRANCE	1,030	1,030	100
PUERTO RICO	100	100	100
NEW ZEALAND	1,777	1,612	91
AUSTRALIA	650	538	83
SWEDEN	2,450	1,975	81
CANADA	2,905	1,224	42
BRITAIN	1,860	300	16
TOTAL	\$166,846	86,486	52

I pledge...

☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$ other _____
 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ ZIP _____ COUNTRY _____
 PHONE _____

Send to the George Novack Reconstruction Fund,
 406 West Street, New York, NY 10014

communist movement," Gannon noted. During the course of the construction project, 27 of the brigade members had either recently joined or became candidates for membership in the Socialist Workers Party. Young members of the crew led many of the most arduous tasks of the work brigade.

"We worked very hard, most often at least 10 hours a day. But before work, and during breaks and lunch, members of the brigade took advantage of the time to read and engage in political discussion," Gannon said.

Funds needed to close out project

Additional money is still needed to make it possible to pay all the bills to complete this stage of the project and make the shop fully operational once again. The outstanding balance of \$50,000 for the air conditioning and heating system, which will be delivered by the end of November; the final payment on the lift table; and many other bills, are yet to be paid.

The main source of income for the renovation of the Pathfinder Building has come from the International Expansion Fund launched in August 1990. This fund grew out of the increased opportunities for distribution of Pathfinder books, the *Militant*, and other socialist publications worldwide. It was launched to make possible major capital expenditures on renovating the editorial offices and rebuilding and retooling the printshop — projects with long-term benefits for the production of these publications for use by revolutionary-minded workers, farmers, and youth around the world. This special fund comes from contributions of \$1,000 or more.

The expansion fund has been an outstanding success. A total of \$1,783,200 has been pledged, out of which \$1,676,200 has been collected. Of this, half a million dollars has come from supporters in Belgium, Britain, France, New Zealand, Canada, Germany, and Sweden. Thirty-one rail workers, who are members of the United Transportation Union, gave the fund a big boost by contributing \$310,000 that they received from job buyouts and contract-signing bonuses.

In order to broaden the number of people contributing financially to the project, the George Novack Reconstruction Fund was launched this fall. Novack, who died in early August, was a long-time leader of the Socialist Workers Party. Among his many contributions to the socialist movement was the major role he played in raising funds to establish and develop the printshop. Pledges to the Novack Fund now total \$166,846, with \$86,486 collected.

The remaining costs of this phase of the reconstruction project will be met through the successful completion of the Novack Fund. With a little over two weeks remaining in the drive, supporters of the socialist movement are taking up the challenge to collect the remaining 52 percent of the pledges — in full and on time. (See coverage of the Novack Fund effort on page 4.)

To carry through the reconstruction of the

printshop, it was necessary to empty the Charles Street building to allow the brigade to do its work. The resulting temporary reorganization of the shop involved putting in storage several machines, including the stitcher, the folder, and the binder. Less paper could be kept on hand as well, since the space to do the printing and related work was almost cut in half.

These changes made the work of the printshop much more difficult. "During this period we were forced to send out printing and finishing work," explained Forrestal. "We had to store our paper at substantial cost, pay for trucking, and meet other exceptional expenses. We had even less space to work in, even with all the machinery that we shipped out.

"The printshop had problems — problems of quality — with political materials and with Pathfinder books. All around, things were rough. We were trying to produce the political weapons that we are in business for, and at the same time generate a surplus. And we were having a very hard time doing it."

Even if the money was in hand to proceed with another leg of the reconstruction project, organizers of the printshop are convinced that the focus must be on putting the shop back together again — the equipment, the plant, the business and financial procedures, and above all the organization of the labor power needed to produce the political weapons that are so vital for working-class fighters.

By focusing now on bringing back the machinery and utilizing the expanded physical size of the plant, it will be possible over time to build the production level of the printshop back up and eventually improve its efficiency and the quality of what it produces.

The lack of funds to carry forward the reconstruction project means that a number of important projects that could be started now will have to be put on hold. Among the most pressing of these projects is a long overdue cleaning and repairing of the six-story Pathfinder Mural on the south wall of the building. Renovation of the central supply and mailroom areas in the Pathfinder Building, as well as some of the pre-press operations that are part of the printshop will also have to wait.

Leadership school preparations

At the November 8 celebration the last 50 members of the reconstruction crew were given a tribute and graduated from the project. For the next several weeks a number of crew members will be finishing up work and then heading to various cities in the United States and around the world to get involved in political activity and help build the socialist movement.

A group of crew members will move on to the Socialist Workers Party leadership school to prepare that facility for an incoming class in 1993. The SWP leadership school was started in the early 1980s to give leaders of the SWP and other communist organizations an opportunity to be released



Printshop director Frank Forrestal holds up symbolic key to new factory. Others on stage are (from left) reconstruction executive committee members José Alvarado, Stu Singer, and Craig Gannon. Partly obscured by podium is Sam Manuel, former director of Pathfinder Mural project, and at right is Ove Aspy of reconstruction executive committee.

from day-to-day political responsibilities, in order to work collectively to study the basic works of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. Through these study courses, the school also gives an impetus to the Marxist education of the entire world communist movement.

Once the limited reconstruction work at the party leadership school is completed the members of the crew working on that project will also be moving on to new cities to continue political work.

Ove Aspy and Craig Gannon, two of the central leaders of the reconstruction project, will be taking on assignments running the business side of Pathfinder's printshop. Two other long-time leaders of the project, Stu Singer and José Alvarado, will shortly be transferring to branches of the Socialist Workers Party.

The Pathfinder Building Reconstruction Project has been a giant victory. The celebration registered the tremendous pride that members, supporters, and friends of the Socialist Workers Party and communist organizations in other countries have in what has been accomplished.

The continuing crisis of the capitalist sys-

tem and the growing resistance of working people are producing more and more openness to the ideas of socialism and the type of political weapons for working-class fighters that the *Militant* and the books that Pathfinder produces represent.

The next stage of the project will be able to be launched on the basis of a printshop working at a high level of efficiency, and through the impetus of political work by communist fighters around the world using the weapons that the printshop produces. New contributors are certain to step forward out of this process and make it possible to take another necessary step in finishing the reconstruction project.

One such contribution has been pledged by Joel Britton, the Socialist Workers Party's national trade union director. Britton has recently quit his job in an oil refinery, where he has worked for the past nine years, in order to donate a \$10,000 buyout to the Expansion Fund. This pledge is an important down payment on the future capital needed to move forward the printshop and the completion of the renovation of all six floors of the Pathfinder Building.

Striking Trinity Steelworkers win support, as company attacks grow

Continued from front page

picket at the plant gates. In an earlier ruling, Holcomb had limited pickets to 10-per-gate and 30 at the picket shack across the street. At the hearing, company representatives made numerous allegations against the union of various illegal acts, but offered no proof.

The judge amended the injunction, ruling that strikers could no longer park their cars on the main street that runs in front of the plant. Holcomb also ordered the company to fire its so-called private investigators.

Also on November 9, the company began its first major attempt to hire strikebreakers. More than 100 people answered the large advertisements for scabs placed in Birmingham newspapers during the week of November 8-13. Picketers were able to turn many applicants away by explaining the issues in the strike and the need for solidarity. But several are now daily crossing the picket line. Even so, Trinity has yet to produce one rail car during the strike. And some who have crossed changed their minds and have come back out.

Support for the striking workers continues to grow. Miners, Steelworkers, and other unionists joined the picket lines last week as the union stood up to the company's first major attempt to bring in strikebreakers. A group of students from Birmingham Southern College visited the line to express their support for the strike. Donations of money and food continue to come in to the union hall. A USWA local in Puerto Rico made a contribution, and Steelworkers from two locals at USX Corp. collected more than \$900 in their plants to donate to the union strike and defense fund.

Local 9226 has launched a petition drive to protest the police harassment that union

members are facing. Petitions are to be presented to the November 17 Bessemer City Council meeting demanding that the cops stop acting as Trinity's private scab-herders.

Donations and messages of support can be sent to: USWA Local 9226 Strike and Defense Fund c/o USWA District 36, P.O. Box 12445, Fairfield, Alabama 35205

Denise McInerney is a striking member of USWA Local 9226 at Trinity Industries in Bessemer. Betsy Farley is a member of USWA Local 2122 in Fairfield.

—CALENDAR—

BRITAIN

Sheffield

Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today. A day of activities hosted by the Sheffield Pathfinder bookshop to celebrate the publication by Pathfinder Press of *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today*. Featuring: Slide show on "Socialism or the Market" by Julian Newall, healthworker recently returned from Cuba; Speech on "The Relevance of Che's Ideas to the Fight for Socialism Today" by Rose Knight, rail worker recently returned from Cuba; Video showing of *Cuban Workers Celebrate May Day*; Photographic exhibition on life of workers and farmers in Cuba. Sat., Dec. 5, program at 4 p.m. Pathfinder Bookshop, 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Vancouver

Benefit for Congress of South African Trade Unions. Featuring: Groupe de Jour and Aya. Sat., Nov. 21, 8 p.m. Maritime Labour Centre, 111 Victoria Drive. Tickets \$15 employed, \$10 otherwise. Tel: (604) 870-0550.



Participants relax after champagne toast to new factory. Machine in foreground is book binder.

Maryland vote defends right to abortion

BY YVONNE HAYES

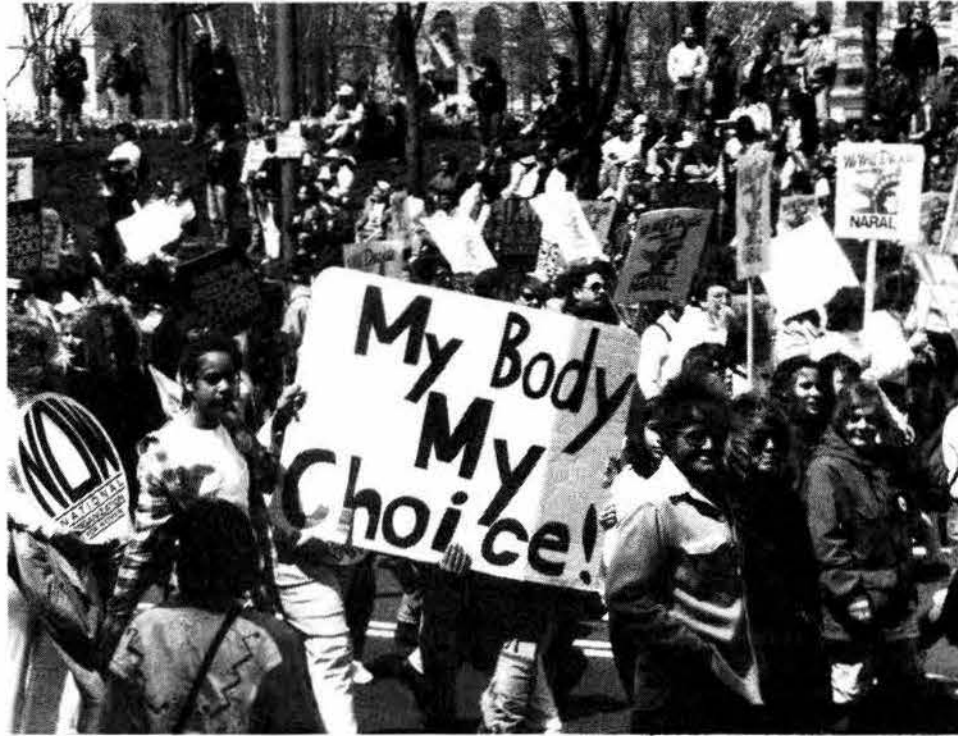
BALTIMORE — Residents of the state of Maryland voted in record numbers to approve new legislation to protect a woman's right to choose abortion in a November 3 ballot initiative. Passed by more than 60 percent of the vote, the law gives women 18 and older sole decision-making power over whether or not to have an abortion in the early months of pregnancy.

"This is a very important victory," said Jules Verdone in a phone interview. Verdone is a member of the communications staff at Maryland FOR Choice, which organized support for the referendum. She said the vote "shows the radical right wing that Maryland is strongly pro-choice. People don't want government intervention in private decisions."

The new law replaces one that has been unenforceable since 1973, when the *Roe v. Wade* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court rendered many of its provisions unconstitutional. Under the old law, abortions could only be performed in hospitals after approval by a review board and only if the woman was the victim of rape, her health was at risk, or the fetus was deformed.

The measure was placed on the ballot after a petition campaign by antiabortion forces several months ago. Funded in part by so-called right-to-life outfits such as Operation Rescue, the Vote kNOW Coalition mounted an aggressive media campaign to try to confuse pro-choice voters about the law.

In the final days of the campaign, anti-abortion forces placed ads that were run repeatedly on television and radio, featuring women of all ages and races saying, "I'm pro-choice, but I'm against Question 6. It's just a bad law." These forces campaigned under the guise of being advocates of choice, saying the law did not provide adequate safeguards for the health and welfare of women. Their slogan was "Make them get it right."



Militant/Paul Mailhot
Support for women's right to abortion is widespread, as April 5 demonstration in Washington, D.C., (above) showed. Opponents of Maryland referendum strengthening abortion rights resorted to ads claiming to be pro-choice, in attempt to confuse the issue. Despite their efforts more than 60 percent voted for the law.

Supporters of the Socialist Workers ticket were among those campaigning in favor of Question 6. The socialist candidates distributed a statement supporting the referendum at plant gates, on campuses, and among fellow unionists on the job.

"I'm pro-choice," said a worker at the gate of the General Motors Corp. (GM) plant here as he took a copy of the socialist campaign flyer. "But what happens if my daughter has an abortion and then has medical problems from it, and I can't sue the doctor?"

Another GM worker commented, "I'm

keeping my hands off this one. It's a woman's issue."

Like their counterparts across the country, the majority of workers at GM who stopped their cars long enough to talk about the referendum indicated they are pro-choice. But many expressed confusion about Question 6, as a result of the media campaign. On the eve of the election, some were still undecided about whether or how to vote on the referendum.

"I'm pro-choice," said a Militant subscriber who is a member of the United Steelworkers of America. "But why, as a

man, should I vote on Question 6? I think the women should decide about this law."

Maryland FOR Choice also took to the airwaves to counter the Vote kNOW campaign focusing on the slogan "Privacy, Safety, Choice." In the final days before the election, ads stressed the idea that a vote for Question 6 was "the pro-choice position" in an attempt to undercut some of the confusion.

"Privacy, safety, choice — that's a good slogan," said socialist senatorial candidate John Gaige at a campaign rally on the eve of the elections. "But there's one more reason this is an important question for working people."

"In attempting to resolve the crisis of their system — capitalism — the rulers of this country are going after the rights and living standard of workers and farmers the world over. Solidarity and joint action are key to resisting this offensive."

"To be able to participate as political equals in this fight, women must be able to control their own bodies," said Gaige. "To overcome the historic divisions that weaken our ability to fight, we need to defend the interests of the most oppressed among our class. That's why the right to choose is a union issue, a working-class issue."

The fight to defend abortion rights is not over, however. The forces behind the Vote kNOW Coalition have vowed to continue their efforts to overturn the new law. Pro-choice activists expect women's legal rights to continue to be challenged at the clinics.

"This vote was a tremendous victory for women's rights," said Gaige. "Now we need to be ready to follow the examples set by those who defended the clinics in Buffalo and Houston. We need to be ready to defend this victory."

Yvonne Hayes is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 14019 in Baltimore.

Rightists try to bomb Minnesota clinic

BY JON HILLSON

MINNEAPOLIS — In an emergency news conference, abortion rights activists here condemned the November 9 attempted bombing of the Robbinsdale Clinic, long a target of right-wing threats, harassment, and violence.

Would-be bombers had turned the abortion clinic roof into a gasoline bomb equal in potential firepower to seven sticks of dynamite.

The failure of the detonation device, a gasoline-soaked wick, to fully ignite spared the lives of staff members and residents of a neighboring nursing home in the quiet Minneapolis suburb.

The packed November 11 news conference brought together leaders of Planned Parenthood, National Abortion Rights Action League, Pro-Choices Resource Center, Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, and spokeswomen for local abortion clinics, who called for a stepped-up law enforcement investigation of the attempted bombing and the arrest of the antiabortion terrorists.

In an interview at the Robbinsdale Clinic, co-director June Fahrman said the potentially murderous attack would not stop the center's function.

"We will not abandon women and cower to these terrorists," she said. "Nothing has ever deterred us, nothing ever will."

Fahrman termed the attack "retaliation from antichoice extremist thugs who have become desperate when compelled to obey the law," a reference to a September 17 injunction restricting the conduct and presence of abortion foes at the clinic.

Leaking gasoline and water ruined one clinic examining room and partially soaked another, causing several thousand dollars in damage.

The center was closed for two days while the building was aired of fumes. It reopened November 11.

More than 1,200 pro-choice activists have defended the clinic since June of this year, when local affiliates of Operation Rescue and the Lambs of Christ attempted to lay siege to it.

Mass abortion rights mobilizations in June and August thwarted the biggest such

challenges, while scores of escorts and clinic defenders shielded patients on consecutive Saturdays for several months.

The attempted bombing occurred after a temporary restraining order issued in September by Hennepin County district judge William Howard. The order limits to 12 the number of abortion foes allowed near clinic property.

Administrators of the facility had sought the order after repeated threats by the rightists to "rescue" the clinic along with verbal and physical harassment of patients and clinic escorts.

The judge's home has been picketed by antiabortion protesters. They also publicized his home phone number to generate calls by abortion opponents.

Howard was planning to consider motions from clinic attorneys to stiffen the order the day the bombing attempt was

made.

In recent weeks, several leaders of the Operation Rescue and Lambs of Christ affiliates have been arrested, fined, and sentenced to short jail terms for violating the clinic injunction, as well as a similar order protecting another clinic director's home from rightist violence and harassment.

Operation Rescue and Lambs of Christ activists continue to use the "Robbinsdale Women's Center," a bogus pregnancy counseling operation set up across the street from the abortion clinic, to organize their actions.

"I do not feel like this struggle is going to be won in the judiciary or the legislature," stated Dennis Uchtman, a Lambs of Christ leader who served penitentiary time in North Dakota for violently invading a clinic. "The fight is going to be won when the church takes to the streets."

Pickets protest antiabortion demonstrators in New Zealand

BY CHRISTINE BERESFORD

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Under a banner saying "Protect Women's Right to Abortion," 120 people gathered here October 18. The protest picket was called in response to a "life chain" organized by the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC).

SPUC organizers claimed that 45,000 had already participated nationwide in the "life chain."

A pro-choice committee was initiated by Victoria University students, many of whom took time out from studying for exams to help organize the picket.

Standing on the opposite side of the street to the main segment of the antiabortion "life chain," which was circling the Parliament buildings with placards saying: "Abortion Kills Children," the pro-choice picketers kept up a lively barrage of chanting and singing.

The pro-choice picket attracted a lot of public support. Many passing motorists

tooted their horns and waved out to the pickets. A bus driver drove past with her horn blaring and raised her fist.

Many of those who took part in the picket and march said they believed this was only the beginning, and that further actions to defend a woman's right to abortion were needed. Nearly every participant signed a mailing list to find out about plans for future protests.

A counterpicket to the "life chain" was hastily organized in Christchurch by the Abortion Law Reform Association of New Zealand (ALRANZ). On short notice, 100 people turned out, the majority of them students.

Carrying placards that read "Keep abortion safe and legal," the enthusiastic pro-choice demonstration appealed to the public for support, gaining a positive response from motorists and passersby.

Carmen Bain in Christchurch contributed to this article.

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All out to make, surpass goals!

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

SUNDAY, November 15 — During this weekend, readers in several cities around the world began the fight to make and surpass the circulation drive goals.

'Confidence has shot up' in Miami

On Saturday, November 14, three teams of supporters in Miami sold 9 *Militant* and 2 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, as well as 36 single copies of the socialist periodicals and 1 copy of the Marxist magazine *New International*. This made a big dent in their goal for the November 14-21 target week of selling 36 *Militant* and *PM* subscriptions and 20 copies of *New International*.

"The confidence here has shot up and we're no longer discussing whether we can make the goal or not but how much we can go over," reports Ernie Mailhot from Miami. During the target week *Militant* supporters around the world are making an all out effort to reverse the lag in the subscription campaign. Confidence seems to be on the rise in other cities as well.



Selling 'Militant' at Portland, Oregon rally against antigay Proposition 9, defeated at polls Nov. 3.

When John Steele from Toronto called, spirits on the *Militant* staff were high. Steele reported that Toronto supporters sold 46 *Militant* subscriptions of their quota of 60-77 percent of their goal! Only a week earlier, Toronto was 10 percent behind schedule. On Tuesday

(UTU) and other unionists raised their subscription goal from 45 to 50 on November 11. Two days later, Joe Swanson from San Francisco reported that a team was being put together to visit all the rail yards in Chicago and other major rail centers in the country to win more readers to the *Militant* in the UTU.

Boston gets the ball rolling

Boston has been at the bottom of the chart since the beginning of the subscription campaign. Jason Coughlin called today, however, and reported that the drive is picking up. At a conference at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst on "Rethinking Marxism," Coughlin and others set up a table with a lot of Marxist literature. They sold 5 *Militant* subscriptions and 30 single copies, 7 copies of *New International*, and \$300 worth of Pathfinder books.

The *Militant* has extended the drive by one week to December 5. The purpose of the extension is to compensate for the impact on week-

Stockholm raises goals

Supporters in Stockholm, Sweden, called to inform us that they had raised their *Militant* subscription goal from 40 to 50 and their *Perspectiva Mundial* goal from 15 to 20 subscriptions.

Twin Cities competes

Supporters in the Twin Cities, Minnesota, raised their goal by a similar amount: from 85 to 100 *Militant* subscriptions. A friendly competition might be developing with Stockholm.

Two distributors of the *Militant* from the Twin Cities attended a farm conference of 400 in rural Minnesota, titled "Land Stewardship Project." They sold 2 *Militant* subscriptions, 2 copies of *New International* #4, which features the article "The Crisis Facing Working Farmers," and 10 copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet "Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s."

Houston, Toronto follow suit

On Sunday night, November 15, supporters in Houston decided to raise their quota of *Militant* subscriptions by 10.

night *Militant* distributors there will meet to decide how much to raise their goal. Unfortunately this will be too late to be registered in this issue. We will reserve a spot for Toronto in next week's column.

Our readership in Canada got a boost from an almost four-week Pathfinder sales team, which visited seven campuses, several plants and mine portals, and the convention of the New Democratic Party in Saskatchewan. Supporters from Toronto, Montreal, and the Twin Cities on the team also set up literature tables at a theater showing the movie *The American Dream*, about the 1985-86 Hormel meatpackers strike in Minnesota, at a meeting of the Philippine Support Group in Winnipeg, and at the University of Alberta. The team sold 26 subscriptions and 193 single copies of the *Militant*, as well as 78 copies of the July issue of the *International Socialist Review*, a supplement to the *Militant*, titled "The fight for national rights of Quebecois and Natives in Canada."

Rail workers raise goal

Rail workers who sell the *Militant* on the job to members of the United Transportation Union

end sales of regional meetings in Chicago on November 15 and in the San Francisco Bay Area on November 21 where *Militant* supporters and others will hear and discuss a public talk by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes (see ad on front page).

Supporters traveled from throughout the Midwest for the Chicago meeting, while people from the whole western part of the United States will be participating in the Bay Area event. These meetings will take a substantial number of *Militant* distributors from big regions of the country out of sales on both the first and second weekends of the target week, necessitating an alteration in the plan to meet the adopted goals by November 28.

Because most of the new subscriptions, described in the stories above, were not received in the *Militant* business office by the deadline of Sunday 3:00 p.m. E.S.T., they are not reflected in this week's chart.

It is apparent, however, that momentum, which can reverse the lag in the circulation effort, is building around the world.

All out to make and surpass the goals!

More than 150 letters arrive in Des Moines urging Iowa parole board to release Curtis

BY MIKE GALATI

DES MOINES, Iowa — Letters continue to arrive here from around the world urging the Iowa State Board of Parole to release Mark Curtis. More than 150 letters have been received by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, with more arriving hourly by fax.

Curtis is the victim of a frame-up by the Des Moines police, who arrested him in March 1988. He had been involved in an important fight at the Swift/Monfort meatpacking plant, where he worked, protesting a raid on the factory by the immigration police and its attempt to deport 17 of his coworkers.

Following a protest meeting against this immigration raid, at which Curtis spoke in Spanish urging that his union, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431, take the lead in defending these workers, he was arrested and false-

ly accused of sexual abuse and burglary.

Among those who recently sent letters urging Curtis's release were the British Columbia branch of the African National Congress; Don McClain, executive director of the Kansas City Interfaith Peace Alliance; Sharon McCoy, a union steward for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 in Perry, Iowa; Georgia state representative Tyrone Brooks; Harold Ruggless, vice-president of United Auto Workers Local 270 in Des Moines, Iowa; J. Ross Evans, assistant secretary of the Auckland and Tamoana Freezing Works union in New Zealand; and Henri Cheve, international secretary of the General Labor Federation (CGT) trade union in France.

One of the most powerful letters received was from the Jakobsberg Folk High School in Stockholm, Sweden. Writing on behalf of the entire school, principal Ingemar

Sallnas asked the parole board to grant Curtis parole at its upcoming hearing on November 17. The letter ended by explaining, "We think that the time has come for justice for Mark Curtis and hope that an immediate parole would start that process."

Supporters in the San Francisco Bay Area report that they organized a successful rally attended by 60 people where more than \$1,000 was collected. This is part of the current international effort to raise \$25,000 to finance the ongoing expenses of the defense committee. Thus far over \$18,000 has been raised internationally toward this goal.

The defense committee will be delivering all of the letters to the parole board before the November 17 hearing.

Mike Galati is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 in Marshalltown, Iowa.

SUBSCRIPTION SCOREBOARD

AROUND THE WORLD

	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		New International Single Issues	
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL	SOLD	GOAL
UNITED STATES							
Houston*	53	75	71%	10	13	11	30
Salt Lake City, UT	45	65	69%	7	13	2	20
Chicago	45	75	60%	3	19	14	35
Los Angeles	72	125	58%	37	75	47	70
Twin Cities, MN*	57	100	57%	4	13	10	30
Cleveland	33	60	55%	0	6	13	40
San Francisco	51	95	54%	9	35	20	60
Detroit	37	75	49%	3	6	5	35
Newark, NJ	57	125	46%	15	35	23	65
Seattle	34	75	45%	5	23	6	35
Birmingham, AL	29	65	45%	0	3	2	35
Washington DC	30	70	43%	7	20	3	35
Philadelphia	32	75	43%	7	13	4	35
Miami	30	75	40%	5	20	22	40
Greensboro, NC	26	65	40%	1	5	11	30
Des Moines, IA	30	80	38%	6	16	1	40
Morgantown, WV	18	50	36%	0	2	5	30
Pittsburgh	25	70	36%	0	3	4	35
Atlanta	22	65	34%	1	5	4	30
New York	58	175	33%	8	50	51	90
St. Louis	26	80	33%	1	3	12	35
Boston	29	90	32%	13	25	18	45
Baltimore	23	75	31%	0	6	1	25
Portland, OR	3	12	25%	0	1	1	10
New Haven, CT	3	15	20%	1	1	1	6
Ft. Madison, Iowa	1	5	20%	0	0	0	0
Cincinnati	4	25	16%	1	5	6	5
U.S. TOTAL	873	1,962	44%	144	416	297	946
AUSTRALIA	13	25	52%	2	6	14	15
BARBADOS	0	6	0%	0	0	0	5
BELGIUM	1	6	17%	0	4	3	10
BRITAIN							
London	21	45	47%	1	5	11	40
Manchester	8	35	23%	0	2	7	30
Sheffield	7	35	20%	1	3	0	20
BRITAIN TOTAL	36	115	31%	2	10	18	90
CANADA							
Vancouver	34	60	57%	6	10	7	20
Toronto	31	60	52%	7	15	19	40
Montreal	21	50	42%	5	20	9	50
Quebec City	0	3	0%	0	0	0	2
CANADA TOTAL	86	173	50%	18	45	35	112
FRANCE	2	3	67%	11	2	6	10
ICELAND	6	15	40%	0	1	0	5
MEXICO	0	1	0%	0	5	0	3
NEW ZEALAND							
Auckland	21	40	53%	0	3	3	8
Christchurch	13	25	52%	0	1	9	8
Wellington	18	35	51%	1	1	8	10
N.Z. TOTAL	52	100	52%	1	5	20	26
PUERTO RICO	0	2	0%	3	5	2	4
SWEDEN*	32	50	64%	14	20	16	20
TOTAL	1,100	2,446	47%	195	519	411	1,241
SHOULD BE		1,481	63%		284		756
DRIVE GOALS		2,350			450		1,200

IN THE UNIONS

Union	Militant/PM			NEW INTERNATIONAL	
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL
UNITED STATES					
UFCW	34	40	85%	6	15
UTU*	37	50	74%	4	15
IAM	67	110	61%	3	42
UMWA	8	18	44%	0	6
OCWA	21	50	42%	3	20
UAW	33	80	41%	8	35
ACTWU	19	48	40%	1	26
USWA	34	90	38%	0	30
ILGWU	9	32	28%	4	9
U.S. TOTAL	262	518	51%	29	198
SHOULD BE	326		63%		
CANADA					
USWA	3	12	25%	2	5
IAM	2	10	20%	0	4
ACTWU	1	10	10%	0	4
CAW	1	15	7%	0	8
CANADA TOTAL	7	47	15%	2	21
SHOULD BE	30		63%		
NEW ZEALAND					
MWU	2	2	100%	0	1
UFCW	3	5	60%	0	1
EU	1	5	20%	0	1
N.Z. TOTAL	6	12	50%	0	3
SHOULD BE	8		63%		
SWEDEN					
Food Workers	2	3	67%	1	1
Metal Workers	4	7	57%	3	2
SWEDEN TOTAL	6	10	60%	4	3
SHOULD BE	6		63%		

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; EU — Engineers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; OCWA — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW (U.S.) — United Food and Commercial Workers; UFCW (New Zealand) — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union

* Raised goal

Discussion in Miami continues in media, on campus, in wake of Cuban youth tour

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Six weeks after the event, the October 1 public forum at Florida International University (FIU) south campus, which featured Cuban youth leaders Ibis Alvisa González and José Antonio Concepción Ráñgel, continues to generate public discussion and debate in Miami.

The *Militant* is reprinting below three letters to the editor that appeared in the November 3 and 10 issues of the *Beacon*, the FIU student newspaper.

The first letter, by FIU senior Ana Gamonal, argues against a *Beacon* editorial and a letter to the editor, which appeared in the October 14 issue. Titled "Who's Afraid of Free Speech?" the editorial took the position that the forum with the youth from Cuba was a step forward in defending free speech in Miami.

"Free speech is something that most people would agree is their basic right," the *Beacon* editors wrote. "However, some of those same people who claim America is great because it is a land of the free etc., have a problem when these rights apply to certain groups such as the Socialist party, Gay rights activists, hate-mongering organizations, and now, in the Hispanic community, a pro-Castro youth group.

"Outraged by last week's pro-Castro lecture, the Hispanic media claim that the university should not have invited two Cuban youth leaders to speak," the editorial said. FIU president Modesto "Maidique should not be blamed, if there is blame to be given, for having the two Cuban youth leaders speak. He should be praised for endorsing a more popular conviction — free speech and free thought."

The *Beacon* editors made it clear that holding the forum at FIU did not imply university endorsement of the views presented by the speakers. On the other hand, the editorial expressed the opinion that "At a university in Cuba, students would not have the freedom to express ideas that contradict Castro's regime."

The editorial concluded, "Opposing ideas not only make us think, but they keep our convictions from becoming stale, dogmatic propaganda."

The letter to the editor, which appeared on the opinion page of the October 14 issue of the *Beacon*, was signed by five FIU students, including William Aviles, vice-

president of the National Organization for Women at FIU. Titled "If you punch Tony, you assault the Constitution," the letter had condemned the punching of Anthony Thomas, an usher at the October 1 forum, by right-winger Marcel Felipe after the event ended. Felipe, a Cuban-American, is a student at FIU. "The October 1 attack by Marcel Felipe on FIU graduate student Tony Thomas was a blow against freedom of speech and peaceful assembly," the authors of the letter wrote.

The following week, the *Beacon* interviewed students about their views on whether the Cuban youth forum should have taken place. Five of the six students questioned said Alvisa and Concepción had a right to speak on campus.

Aviles responds, in a letter reprinted below, to a letter to the *Beacon* written by Che Padron, also reprinted below. Padron, president of the College Democrats at FIU, charges that his group was falsely listed as a sponsor of the event.

Besides the *Beacon* items, at least 16 further news articles and opinion columns on the October 1 forum and its repercussions have appeared in the *Miami Herald*, its Spanish-language edition *El Nuevo Herald*, and *Diario Las Américas*, another Spanish-language daily with sizable circulation in Miami, northern New Jersey, and other cities around the country. Well over 50 articles, columns, editorials, and letters to the editor have appeared in numerous publications in the United States on the two-month 10-city tour by the Cuban youth.

The success of the somewhat tumultuous forum at FIU was a big victory for free speech. The fact that the meeting happened, and the public debate it generated, punctured the myth that such endeavors are not possible in south Florida, that qualitatively different rules apply there from everywhere else in the United States.

Many of the students at FIU on both sides of the debate are of Cuban origin. They represent a growing number of Cuban-

Americans who are increasingly integrated into U.S. politics, the working class, and the class struggle in this country. Unlike the older generation of Cubans who fled to Miami immediately after the overthrow of U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista in January 1959, most among the younger generation do not focus on opposition to the Cuban revolution as their primary concern. Attitudes among older Cuban-Americans have also changed; many support normalization of relations with Cuba.

As the exchanges of letters in the *Beacon* show, many Cuban-American students, workers, and others appreciated the opportunity to have an open discussion with revolutionary youth from Havana. Today, a growing number of Cuban-Americans support the right of free speech and want an open dialogue with the Cuban people living 90 miles south of Florida. They include many who for the moment are opposed to the Cuban revolution, its socialist course, and its communist leadership.

Letters to Miami student newspaper

Below are three letters that appeared in the Florida International University student newspaper *The Beacon*. Letters 1 and 2 appeared in the November 3 issue, and letter 3 was printed in the November 10 issue. All titles are by *The Beacon*. Letters 1 and 2 have been abridged for lack of space.

1. The right to protest is also guaranteed

In response to the editorial and letter printed in the Opinion section of *The Beacon*, I feel it is of great importance that several things be clarified. First of all, the editorial mentioned that a university's prime objective is to provide a "forum where a menagerie of ideas can be discussed and debated." Although this is an essential part of a university, I believe that the general consensus is that a university's primary objective is to provide its students with an education.

Secondly, as to the general theme of these publications, I too believe that freedom of speech is a basic right. Therefore, the right to protest the two Cuban communist "youth

leaders," which came to speak at FIU, was also a right that deserved respect and recognition.

Yet, I found it hard to believe that those who sponsored this lecture did not anticipate that the protest that followed would be a part of this event. To purposely have placed FIU students up front, in order to keep the crowd back, was a grave mistake.

The Cuban "youth leaders" are gone, and all that remains is division on our campus. We as students were pitted against each other, and the recognition that the protest deserved was lost because of an incident which perhaps would never have occurred if proper security measures had been taken. Even President Maidique, with whom I discussed the issue, agreed. . . .

Moreover, in defense of those who protested, I have to admit that Cuban-Americans may at times come across as tolerant, but I like to call their reaction passion. We are passionate people and have been since the Spanish-American War. . . .

The Cuban "youth leaders" told us what they believed and we let them know how we felt. Maybe they learned something from us, maybe they did not. If they come back for more, I hope better precautions are taken because those who protested the first time will be better prepared the next time.

Ana M. Gamonal
FIU Senior

2. College Democrats were not sponsors

I am writing you concerning an FIU event that took place on Thursday, October 8. Two students from the Cuban Union of Young Communists, Ibis Alvisa and José Antonio Concepción Ráñgel, lectured that afternoon. The controversy and irresponsibility of this event continue to hurt FIU's reputation.

First is the claim of officials from the Socialist Workers Party, the individuals who brought the two lecturers, that the College Democrats and other campus groups sponsored this event.

As the current President of the College Democrats, I know that no current member of the College Democrats authorized, sponsored, or knew anything of this event. And none of the other organizations sponsored this event either. The Socialist Workers Party and a member of the Student Programming Committee arranged the event and illegally used our organization's names.

The specific explanation by the above people is that one William Avilas gave the sponsorship of the Democrats. Mr. Avilas never consulted the College Democrats and even though he was a one-time member of the group, he is no longer active and an official member of the Democrats at FIU.

Of course, the parties involved do not

claim any responsibility for the "misunderstanding." When I confronted them with their falsification, they did nothing but express their wish to bring the speakers or others like them back on campus. I understand that to use an on-campus organization as a front for this event makes it easier. But I hope that the people involved realize the misrepresentation whether it be due to carelessness, poor organization or just irresponsibility is a serious offense to the members of the said organization.

As for the event itself, it is an insult to all students. The event did nothing but irritate students on a very personal and emotional level. The purpose of the university is to educate, and benefit the student body by stimulating intellectual thought and fostering an environment (both social and intellectual), that students can learn in.

What this event has done is disrupted student life. It tarnished the university in the eyes of the community by showing FIU to be unresponsive. . . .

I hope in the future university officials are more responsive to the needs of FIU and the Miami community. I also hope that the people who are responsible for this realize that they should check their sources. I also hope they grow just a little backbone, just enough to take responsibility on themselves, and not seek the names of others, for this outrage. And I assure them if they choose to bring back these speakers, the welcome will be even colder.

Che C. Padron
President, Young Democrats

3. Cuban lecture no insult, but democratic

I am writing to you in reference to a letter that appeared in *The Beacon* on Nov. 3. The letter written by Che Padron, discussed the sponsorship of the now famous event of Oct. 8 in which two young Cuban students came to speak on our campus. Mr. Padron, the "president" of the College Democrats, states that the College Democrats did not sponsor the event and that a "one-time member" (that's me) gave sponsorship without notifying him. In my opinion the statements by Mr. Padron are erroneous and hypocritical. First, at the time of the event I was officially vice-president of the group and, in my opinion, with full rights to give the sponsorship of the organization. Second, not only was I not a "one-time member" but I was one of the founding members of the group.

The College Democrats today may oppose sponsorship of the event after the fact, but that does not change the official sponsorship that I gave the organizers. In addition, Mr. Padron's present position as "president" of the College Democrats places serious question on his ability to be responsible and truthful. Not only did he not receive authorization from me to hold elections, but

Continued on Page 9

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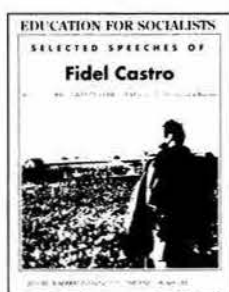
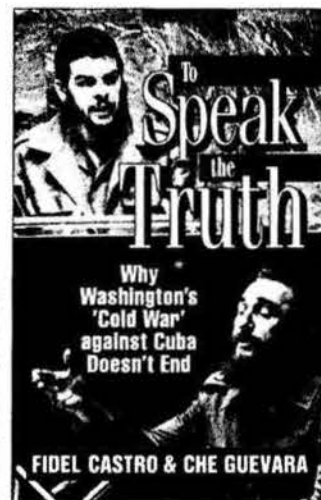
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Cuban youth leaders describe U.S. tour

'This was big opportunity for us to exchange views with students and youth'

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Two Cuban youth leaders, Ibis Alvisa González and José Antonio Concepción Ráñgel, recently concluded a 10-city speaking tour of U.S. universities and colleges. In the course of the two-month tour, they spoke to nearly 3,400 people, mainly students. For many, this was the first time they had heard Cubans living on the island who defend the revolution.

"This was a very big opportunity for us to exchange views with youth and students in the United States," said Alvisa in a September 29 interview that she and Concepción granted in New York, shortly before they traveled to Miami for the final leg of their tour.

Alvisa and Concepción are researchers for the Center for Studies of Youth in Havana and members of the Union of Young Communists there.

The two youth leaders described the high interest in Cuba today among young people they met throughout the country. "In spite of all the misinformation about Cuba that exists here, when we spoke, people would begin to break through some of these misconceptions and wanted to know the truth," Alvisa said.

Meetings with U.S. workers

"I think this interest has to do with the economic situation people are experiencing in the United States today," she added. Alvisa mentioned some of the meetings she had with workers who wanted to find out more about Cuba and who told her about the growing unemployment and deteriorating living and working conditions here.

"In St. Paul, Minnesota, I had a meeting in a restaurant with a group of packinghouse workers, who are mainly from Mexico. They told me about the problems they face as immigrant workers who come to work in this country.

"Another interesting experience for me was a meeting in Vista, in southern California, with farm workers. More than 80 workers took part in that meeting."

Alvisa and Concepción both noted the desire among many of the Cuban-Americans they met throughout their tour to have a free exchange of views and a real discussion. "My experience was that most Cubans here, especially the young people born in the United States — the Cuban-Americans — have a very open approach and want to hear the other side of the story from Cubans who live in Cuba," Alvisa said.

"This was true even among those we met who didn't agree with communism or socialism. Those youth have questions that no one has been able to answer. Some youth would tell us, 'My father and mother don't want to know anything about the Cuban revolution, but I do.'

"They realized that we have nothing to hide, that we have no prejudices, that we want to answer their questions and exchange views with them. They saw that we have a different perspective."

This was a big contrast, she observed, to



Ibis Alvisa González (left) and José Antonio Concepción Ráñgel (right), with translator Francisco Picado (center), speaking at Florida International University meeting in Miami. Despite disruption attempt by right-wing minority, discussion lasted two hours.

"the hard-core right-wing minority who have no interest in debating or listening, and only want to try to distort the truth about the Cuban revolution."

Two days after our interview, on October 1, Alvisa and Concepción addressed a public meeting in Miami. The event at Florida International University drew 225 people, primarily young Cuban-Americans. Most clearly wanted the meeting to take place, although the majority of them were opposed to the Cuban revolution. As a result, the attempt by a small minority of right-wingers to disrupt the event failed and the two Cuban revolutionaries answered questions and comments for about two hours.

During their tour, Concepción said, they explained the big challenges facing the Cuban people today given the collapse of Cuba's trade with the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, combined with the 33-year-old U.S. economic embargo.

"We explained the real limitations we face today. For example we're getting 6 million tons of oil a year, down from the 13 millions we used to consume. We have limited supplies of basic goods like soap, detergent, and cotton products," he said.

In response to this situation, known in Cuba as the "special period in peacetime," the Cuban government has established strict

priorities in the use of its resources.

A major priority, Alvisa said, is "a food program to make the country self-sufficient in meeting the food needs of the population." She cited the efforts to further develop the production of root vegetables, citrus fruits, animal feed, fresh-water fish, and other foodstuffs.

The government is also emphasizing investment in tourism and medical and pharmaceutical production to obtain the hard currency necessary to purchase vital energy and industrial imports.

"Production of milk, which used to be imported from [eastern] Germany," she said, "has gone way down. For that reason, the priority is to guarantee milk for children up to the age of seven and for the elderly and the ill. So every morning for breakfast my daughter, who's three years old, receives milk. I'll have a glass of orange juice or whatever is available at the moment for breakfast; sometimes a bread roll, but bread production has dropped a lot because we don't grow wheat," which was imported from the USSR.

"When I ride to work on my bicycle — that's another change because I used to ride the bus — I take my daughter to her child-care center. Child-care centers haven't shut down. There, my daughter also gets a quota of milk, and it's free. She gets a balanced

diet of vegetables and meat, even under the difficult conditions."

Voluntary work brigades

Concepción described the voluntary mobilizations of youth known as the Student Work Brigades, "where university and senior high school youth spend a month out of their vacations carrying out farm work."

These brigades have been organized for the last 15 years. "But now with the food program, they take on a double importance," Alvisa added. "Not only because of the importance of voluntary labor in educating and creating a communist man, but because of the need to increase the labor power needed for agricultural priorities."

"This year," Concepción said, "more than 157,000 university and high school students gave a month of their summer vacations to work in agriculture. It was the biggest mobilization in history. And three or four times as many youth asked to participate."

Alvisa explained that during their tour, many students asked about the role of Cuban volunteer troops in Angola who helped defeat the South African invasion of that country in 1987-88. Alvisa had been in Angola at that time. "For my generation, being able to go to Angola was important — to fight against apartheid and to be part of a massive movement of youth that can understand what internationalism is, who can be capable of giving their lives for other peoples."

"For young people who hadn't encountered capitalism," she said, "the experience in Angola taught us what capitalism really is. That was the big impact it had on me. We saw children begging for food, people starving. We also saw what the apartheid regime represents."

Alvisa said their explanation of the facts about Cuba had a real impact on many of the youth and others around the country who had never before had the opportunity to hear revolutionaries from that country.

She added that she and Concepción were grateful to "all the professors, academics, students, and friends who made this tour possible" and hoped it would open the door to further exchanges between youth in Cuba and the United States.

Student letters debate Cuban youth meeting

Continued from Page 8

he even failed to notify the current president of the organization.

It seems that the organizers he accuses of being irresponsible are not the only ones capable of such actions. Finally, Mr. Padron is lying or mistaken in his assertion that the sponsorship from the other organizations was fabricated by the organizers. The fact is that the National Organization of Women, the Black Student Union, and the Women Studies Center all sponsored the event with no manipulation from the organizers.

He goes on to state that the event was an insult to the FIU community. The event displayed the attributes of the community and the open spirit of our university. The stereotype that has labeled the Cuban-American community as monolithic and repressive of

free speech was considerably weakened. Not only is the president of NOW a Cuban-American, but I met several Cuban-Americans at the event, who felt that the event should happen in the name of free speech.

They, along with many other Cuban exiles and students, came to listen and protest peacefully against the visitors. One individual did react with violence, but that should not erase the fact that the vast majority of the Cuban exiles did not resort to this immature tactic.

Furthermore, FIU as an international school and center for Latin American studies was a suitable environment to present the views of an important Hispanic country, Cuba. Mr. Padron should stop complaining about the event and perhaps look at what it accomplished.

For the first time in the history of FIU,

Cuban communists were involved in an organized lecture. Does this not express the growing tolerance of the Cuban-Americans within our student body and community? I think it does. The "leader" of the College Democrats should be the one to show some "backbone," which he states the organizers lack. He should stand up to the right-wingers of the Cuban exile community who want to suppress free speech in our city. Mr. Padron should remember that the democratic freedoms in the United States should not be taken for granted, but must constantly be defended. Only in this way can we present to Cuba and its people how a true democracy acts, and perhaps even present them with the hope that they will one day live in one.

William Aviles

Vice President of N.O.W.

Political Science Student

Books by Pathfinder at Tokyo fair spark interest among youth

BY JOAN SHIELDS

TOKYO — "I think I'm going to find this very interesting," a young woman commented as she bought a copy of *New International* no. 7 on "The Opening Guns of World War III" from the Pathfinder Press booth at the 1992 Tokyo International Book Fair.

The same woman returned the final day of the fair to buy a book of speeches by Malcolm X and *The Revolution Betrayed*, Leon Trotsky's classic account of the bureaucratic degeneration of the Soviet Union.

Her response to the Pathfinder titles on display was typical of the many young people who crowded into the booth during the October 31–November 4 book fair to look at and buy the books and to discuss politics.

This was the first Tokyo book fair to which exhibitors from other countries were invited. Spread over three floors of the Sunshine City Convention Center, adjacent to a big shopping mall, there were 350 booths for Japanese publishers, distributors, and printing companies. Representatives of the book trade from 24 other countries, — the majority from Asia, also participated.

The fair, open to the public, was attended by tens of thousands.

Pathfinder's booth was staffed by a four-person international team from the United States and New Zealand.

This year Pathfinder has begun to receive orders from Japan. The book fair offered an opportunity for Pathfinder representatives to meet with bookstore buyers and distributors in order to expand sales of Pathfinder books and pamphlets here and throughout Asia. During the fair itself, a bookstore in Osaka placed a 400-book order for titles by Malcolm X, including 50 copies of the newly published *February 1965: The Final Speeches*.

Response from young people

The public response to Pathfinder books, particularly from young people, was striking. Many wanted to discuss the role of the United States in the world, the deepening trade rivalries between Washington and other imperialist powers, including Japan, and the prospects of more shooting wars in the years ahead.

This desire to understand world politics today reflects developments within Japan itself.

Japan is being affected by the mounting world depression. Working people are al-

ready feeling the effects of this. Unemployment is rising. Many workers are getting less take-home pay because of reductions in available overtime and cuts in factory bonuses on which their standard of living has been based.

In conversations, a number of people attending the fair touched on another controversial issue in Japanese politics — the sending of Japanese troops to participate in the so-called peacekeeping forces in Cambodia under the flag of the United Nations. A number of demonstrations have taken place outside military bases in Tokyo and other cities in recent months to oppose this decision.

Others wanted to discuss the "plutonium ship" being loaded in France for shipment around the world to Japan. This action is drawing anger in Japan and throughout Asia, as the likelihood grows of the Japanese government openly stockpiling nuclear weapons material.

The Japanese stock market has plummeted over the past year and a banking crisis is growing. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party is being rocked by scandals that cannot easily be swept under the rug as the country's economic problems build.

'New International' magazine

As a result of these discussions a number of people decided to buy *New International* no. 7. Well before the end of the fair the booth had sold seven copies in English and one in French — the entire stock — and a number of other people said they would place orders. Another seven copies of other issues of *New International* were also sold.

One of those who bought a copy of *New International* no. 7 was a young student of Korean descent. More than 600,000 people of Korean descent live in Japan. They experience severe economic and social discrimination.

The student explained that he was part of a group of young Koreans living in Tokyo who regarded themselves as socialists. They champion the reunification of North and South Korea, and organize to defend the rights of Koreans in Japan.

He was excited to come across Pathfinder. "I never imagined this existed in the United States," he said, pointing to the books and pamphlets on the surrounding shelves. He also purchased *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: The Proletarian Party and the Trade Unions*.



Pathfinder booth at Tokyo International Book Fair. *New International* no. 7 on "The Opening Guns of World War III" was an especially popular title, along with the speeches of Malcolm X and books by Cuban revolutionaries.

Like this student, a number of other young people who stopped by the Pathfinder booth on the first day came back later during the fair to discuss politics further and to buy books. Several came back with copies of the Pathfinder catalog marked with books they wanted to buy.

A young librarian bought a copy of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. Later in the fair he returned to buy more, and said he had read the book in one night.

A rail unionist who had stopped by the first day rushed back an hour before the fair closed on the final day. "You haven't sold out of that Eastern Airlines book yet?" he asked. As well as buying *The Eastern Airlines Strike*, he bought the four-volume series by Farrell Dobbs on the struggle of the Midwest International Brotherhood of Teamsters union in the 1930's and several other books on U.S. labor history.

Malcolm X

Many young people who stopped at the Pathfinder booth did so because their eyes were caught by the display of books by and about Malcolm X. Some had read his autobiography; most had heard about him but had never had the opportunity to read his speeches.

When asked why there was so much interest in Malcolm X in Japan, some pointed to the influence of rap music. Others talked about the racism existing in Japan itself against the Ainu people of northern Japan and those of Korean descent.

"Japanese people are fascinated by people who are rebels, and Malcolm X was the biggest rebel of them all," one young man commented. Another said, "Malcolm X is for everyone, not just for Blacks."

Altogether, about 35 books by Malcolm X were sold.

A number of people who came to the booth were interested in discussing Cuba. Several explained that a documentary on the 30th anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis had recently been shown on Japanese television.

More than 25 titles on Cuba were sold, including all four copies at the booth of *To*

Speak the Truth, which contains speeches by Cuban revolutionary leaders Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara at the United Nations. Some people bought books featuring the speeches and writings of Cuban leaders as a result of discussions on the collapse of the bureaucratic regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Many young women headed straight to the shelf containing Pathfinder's women's studies titles. Asked if the position of women was changing for the better in Japan, one said, rather hesitantly, "It is changing." She then added, "on the surface."

Among those who visited the book fair were many immigrant workers and students from other parts of Asia, the Middle East, North and South America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Several of Pathfinder's Spanish- and French-language titles were sold.

A young Iranian worker who the Pathfinder team had met at a restaurant several nights earlier came by and bought a Farsi-language copy of *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Che Guevara.

Activists associated with political groups in Japan bought hundreds of dollars worth of Pathfinder books during the fair. But the interest in Pathfinder — including in the books it publishes by Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky — went much broader than this.

Among the books sold were three copies of Trotsky's *History of the Russian Revolution* and the two-volume set *Workers of the World and Oppressed Peoples Unite!*, which documents the proceedings of the second congress of the Communist International in 1920.

Many of those who bought books said they planned to order more. They requested to be kept informed of Pathfinder's publishing program. One person joined the Pathfinder Reader's Club.

Altogether more than \$12,500 worth of books were sold.

Joan Shields is a member of the New Zealand Meat Workers Union.

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February 1965
THE FINAL SPEECHES



Malcolm X

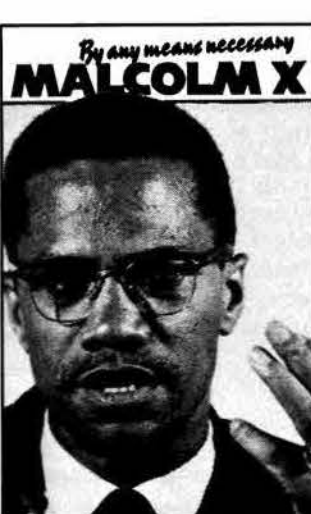
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Available at your local Pathfinder bookstore (see page 12) or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. If ordering by mail, add \$3.00 handling and postage for the first book and \$0.50 for each additional title.

Federal indictment is issued in Minnesota cross burning

BY GARY ROSE

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Arthur Miller, a St. Paul resident previously convicted in a cross burning case here, was indicted October 21 on federal charges of conspiring with others to interfere with a Black family's right of access to housing by intimidation and threat of force. Miller and Robert Viktora, along with two others, constructed a cross and burned it in the yard of Russ and Laura Jones on June 21, 1990.

Miller was originally convicted under St. Paul's "hate crime" ordinance. That law stated, "Whoever places on public or private property a symbol, object, appellation, characterization, or graffiti, including, but not limited to, a burning cross or Nazi swastika, which one knows or has reasonable grounds to know arouses anger, alarm, or resentment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, or gender commits disorderly conduct and

shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

In June the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the law as unconstitutional. The challenge to the law was brought to the court by Viktora, a self-proclaimed white separatist.

Since the city of St. Paul brought charges against Viktora on the basis of supposed "speech," he got off scot-free. Viktora was 17 at the time of the cross burning, and as a juvenile will probably not face charges unless he is certified for adult prosecution.

The federal misdemeanor carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

Miller, 18 at the time of the cross burning, was the only adult involved, according to police. He pleaded guilty one month after the attack to violating the hate crimes ordinance and was given a 30-day term in the workhouse.

Film exposes U.S. role in Panama invasion

The Panama Deception. An Empowerment Project production. Director: Barbara Trent. Producers: Barbara Trent, David Casper, Nico Panigutti, and Joanne Doroshow. One hour and 34 minutes.

BY SARA LOBMAN

"We walked among the dead and saw the tanks run over and crush our dead. We saw a great number of civilian cars with whole families inside." — Panamanian woman.

In the early morning hours of December

IN REVIEW

20, 1989, 26,000 U.S. military troops invaded Panama. Thousands of Panamanian civilians were killed and wounded. Whole neighborhoods were destroyed. Two weeks later, the U.S. occupation forces seized Panamanian head of state Manuel Noriega, flew him to Miami, and jailed him to await trial. On July 10, 1992, he was sentenced to 40 years in prison for drug trafficking-related charges.

The Panama Deception, produced by the Empowerment Project, exposes the role of the U.S. government during the invasion and documents the conditions imposed on working people in Panama in the years since. The film provides an abundance of interviews and film footage — some of it never seen before — to back up its claims.

According to the U.S. government, the invasion was necessary to put a halt to massive drug trafficking allegedly being organized by Noriega. The immediate pretext was the shooting of a U.S. Marine, a member of an elite group known for provoking confrontations, by the Panamanian Defense Forces (PDF). *The Panama Deception* documents the history of U.S. collaboration with Noriega, including the many years he was on the CIA payroll.

Trouble began when Noriega became increasingly uncooperative in advancing the U.S. rulers' objectives in Central America. In 1984, for example, he hosted Latin American leaders at the Contadora Peace Talks. The talks called for an end to U.S. intervention in Central America, especially in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Most importantly, the United States began to fear that its control of the Panama Canal would be lost. In 1978 a treaty had been signed that would have required that U.S. troops be withdrawn and U.S. military bases vacated by the year 2000. The canal, and the territory surrounding it, have been under U.S. control since 1903. The film does a thorough job of detailing the history of U.S. colonial exploitation of Panama and the resistance to the U.S. occupation that began to peak in the 1960s, eventually leading to the 1978 treaty.

By 1986, Washington had begun a carefully orchestrated campaign to oust Noriega and to install a government more to its liking. *The Panama Deception* explains

how the government used the media and the courts, imposed economic sanctions, intervened in Panama's 1989 national elections, organized a coup, and ultimately invaded the country.

The most hard-hitting part of the documentary is on the impact of the invasion on working-class Panamanians. Throughout the invasion, the U.S. government claimed that civilian injuries were minimal, and in fact that the Panamanian people welcomed the U.S. troops. To this day the Pentagon insists that only 516 people were killed. "I have seen no reports of U.S. soldiers executing anyone in Panama," Pentagon spokesperson Pete Williams said during the invasion. "That sort of behavior would be absolutely unprofessional, totally unacceptable and illegal."

Footage of government statements such as this contrast sharply with shots of Panamanian troops and civilians being rounded up, and of eyewitness accounts of the executions. Fifteen mass graves have been discovered in Panama. Many of the remains are of young people in their teens. Of the 19 cases of homicide and alleged executions that were filed with the U.S. military, all but two were dismissed.

The United Nations Human Rights Organization estimated that 2,500 people died. The UN condemned the invasion.

According to one estimate, close to 7,000 Panamanians were arrested, including trade union leaders, leaders of political parties, and cultural leaders.

One of the primary targets of the U.S. bombardment was the headquarters of the Panamanian Defense Forces, located in the working-class neighborhood of El Chorrillo. U.S. troops shelled the area for four hours before beginning to systematically burn the neighborhood down. "They would



U.S. soldier searches refugees at camp in Balboa, Panama, in December 1989.

throw a small device into a house and it would catch on fire," explained one witness. "They burned from one street to the next. They coordinated the burning through walkie talkies."

As a result of the invasion 20,000 Panamanians lost their homes. Several thousand were housed in two large airplane hangars for more than a year. Each family lived in a cubicle that was only 10 feet square.

In June 1990 *The Panama Deception* director Barbara Trent visited this refugee camp. U.S. military police initially refused to allow Trent and the camera crew to enter,

and only relented when hundreds of angry refugees demanded the right to talk to them. "We're tired of being stuck inside this hangar, sleeping in a cot," one woman said. "Many old people are sick. There's no medical attention. And the children. When are they going to put an end to this?"

The Panama Deception has been opening in cities across the United States since a July 30 world premiere in Los Angeles. This movie provides valuable insight into the true nature of U.S. intervention, which will be useful as the U.S. ruling class drives toward more wars.

Socialists debate welfare with students

BY JON HILLSON

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Sharp exchanges punctuated nearly four hours of election-eve discussion between students at Harding High School and Socialist Workers congressional candidates Chris Nisan and Jo Rothenberg. The two candidates spoke in four history classes to a total of over 120 students, most of them from the predominantly white, working-class neighborhood of East St. Paul.

The high school was a scene of protest earlier this year when Black and white students demonstrated against a teacher who drew racist caricatures of Blacks. The teacher, and several administrators, were reassigned as a result of the student actions. Racist and white supremacist organizations, such as White Aryan Resistance and the Ku Klux Klan, claim supporters in the school.

The overwhelming majority of the stu-

dents Nisan and Rothenberg addressed worked full- or part-time jobs, some of them in nearby factories.

In every class, several of these students pointedly opposed "welfare cheats." "I already have three part-time jobs," one student said, "Why should I pay for somebody to have more children and buy a car, someone who just sits home and collects a check?"

"You know who gets the bulk of 'welfare'?" socialist candidate Nisan responded. "The corporations, agribusiness, the military, and the banks, in the form of debt service, that's who. There's welfare for the rich, and you subsidize it, while the Democrats and Republicans hunt around for some so-called cheat they can publicize to divert you from identifying your real enemy."

"I grew up on welfare," Nisan, a switchperson on the Burlington Northern railroad, explained. "We had nothing. We

didn't have a car, and we certainly didn't get rich. My mother had multiple sclerosis. She couldn't work. You think she didn't deserve something? And who is the typical 'welfare mother'? Think about who you imagine it is. And then realize it's a 24-year-old, single, white mother. See how they trick you?"

Continuing debate on the question of welfare led to discussion on the \$4 trillion federal deficit, which some students suggested ought to be paid by "every American."

"It's not 'our deficit.' Working people didn't create it, working people don't have any obligation to honor it," Rothenberg responded, to the surprise of many students.

"Why should we sacrifice to pay off the billionaires and bankers? It's the government that's defaulted on working people, not the other way around. All this sacrifice we're being called on to make gets us prepared for the ultimate sacrifice the government will force us into, going to war for the profits of the rich."

"What's wrong with that? I'm ready to go," one student retorted. "War is basically killing over money," another student replied. "Yeah, right now you can tell they're polishing up their guns," a third student interjected.

In a couple of classes, one or two students sought to monopolize the discussion, repeatedly attacking "welfare cheats."

"You've got to stop looking for scapegoats, blaming your problems on fellow workers," Nisan asserted. "The way this economy is collapsing, one day you're going to need some kind of help, so you better start thinking about who your allies really are."

A couple of young women approached Rothenberg, telling her after one class, "We agree with everything you say, but sometimes it's hard to talk here."

In another class, a young Black student who had helped lead the antiracist fight in the school earlier in the year agreed openly with the socialist candidates, defending social programs and opposing Washington's war drive.

"The problem in this school isn't the 30 organized skinheads," he explained later, "it's the people they influence. But you can talk to them and win them away from the skinheads."

Media demands access to refugees

Continued from Page 3

the burning down of 12 of the temporary structures built to house 20 people each.

Earlier this year, prior to the forced repatriations, the Guantánamo camp held up to 12,000 Haitians. Since the military coup in September 1991 that overthrew Haiti's elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, about 40,000 Haitians have tried to reach the United States by boat.

Forced HIV testing of all the Haitians held at the Guantánamo base began last December.

In February, a special quarantine camp was set up on the base for all those who tested HIV-positive. In April these refugees were officially informed about their status.

On Good Friday the internees were herded into an airport hangar on the base where Haitians about to fly to the United States are usually processed, and their HIV status was rudely announced to them by military authorities over a loudspeaker. "All hell broke loose. The whole place just became chaotic," an interpreter on the scene told the *Washington Post*. People were "throwing things, screaming, knocking over cots."

In early September the INS granted three of the HIV-infected Haitians "humanitarian

parole," allowing them to enter the United States for medical treatment. One of these "parolees," 26-year-old Rigaud Milenette, after being released from the Bethesda Naval hospital, has been forced to remain at the INS's immigration detention center in New York.

Anti-Haitian prejudice

In the 1980s anti-Haitian prejudice was consciously promoted by the U.S. government, which attempted to brand all Haitians as potential spreaders of AIDS. The Food and Drug Administration, which oversees the nation's blood supply, banned blood donations in 1984 from Haitians who entered the United States after 1977. In February 1990 the ban was extended to all Haitians entering the U.S. before 1977 as well.

In protest, thousands of Haitian workers led a march of more than 50,000 people through the streets of New York in April 1990.

Meanwhile, as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to hear oral arguments on the constitutionality of Bush's Haitian refugee policy, the number of Haitians once again seeking to reach the United States aboard small boats is on the rise. More than 700 Haitians

were intercepted by U.S. Coast Guard cutters on the high seas in October, nearly double the number picked up between June and September.

"My fundamental concern is that Haiti could be the first big foreign crisis [President-elect William] Clinton faces," a U.S. State Department official lamented to the *New York Times*. Clinton stated during his presidential campaign that he favored granting Haitians temporary refugee status in the United States until constitutional rule returns to that island.

Labor news in the Militant

The *Militant* stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation should attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how to best advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The Fight Against Discrimination in Housing. Speakers: Brad Parks, plaintiff in discrimination suit against Goldsboro Apartments in Atlanta; Joe Shifalo, director, Metro Fair Housing; spokesperson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. (one block from Garnett Marta). Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

IOWA

Des Moines

Celebrate Publication of New Malcolm X Book and Help Reconstruct the Pathfinder Printshop. Sat., Nov. 21. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism To-

day. Speaker: Martin Koppel, Pathfinder Press editor, recently returned from Cuba. Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

The War Drive Continues Against Workers at Home and Abroad. Speaker: James Harris, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Nov. 21, dinner 6 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 508 N. Snelling Ave. Donation: dinner \$4, program \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

The Fight for Jobs: Eyewitness Report from Britain on the Miners' Fight against Mine Closings. Speaker: Clay Dennison, laid-off member of United Mine Workers of America who recently visited Britain. Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$4. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

South Africa: Revolutionary Strategy in Action. Speaker: Urmilla Bob, member of the African National Congress and the South African Democratic Teachers Union. Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

The '92 Elections: A Socialist View. Speaker: Norton Sandler, Business and Promotions director, Pathfinder Press. Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054. **Malcolm X: Internationalist Working Class Fighter.** Speaker, video of Malcolm X's speeches, discussion on new Spike Lee movie. Sat., Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Victorian State Anti-Labor Campaign: An Attack on All Workers. Sat., Nov. 21, 6 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Tel: 02-281-3297.

CANADA

Toronto

Solidarity With Striking Workers Today. Speakers: Roger Annis, just returned from *Militant* reporting team to Yellowknife gold miners' strike, member of Canadian Auto Workers union; Pizza Pizaa striker; others. Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

Open House. Meet Andile Yawa of the African National Congress Youth League, president of World Federation of Democratic Youth. Sat., Nov. 21. Klapparstíg 26. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Child Abuse and Democratic Rights. Speaker: Member of Communist League. Sat., Nov. 21, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075. **The Sealords Deal and the Fight for Maori Rights.** Sat., Nov. 28, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

Christchurch

Child Abuse and Democratic Rights. Sat., Nov. 21, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Tel: (3) 356-6055.

The Sealords Deal and the Fight for Maori Rights. Sat., Nov. 28, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Donation: \$3. Tel: (3) 356-6055.

Wellington

Tokyo Book Fair. Pathfinder representative reports back. Sun., Nov. 22, 4 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

Child Abuse and Democratic Rights. Sat., Nov. 28, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

U.S. tariffs on Europe raise the threat of trade war

Continued from front page

producer of oilseeds. Forty percent of the 2.5 million acres of land in Germany planted with oilseeds is situated in poorer sections of what used to be East Germany.

In hopes of reaching a compromise agreement with Washington, the EC authorized its agriculture commissioner, Ray MacSharry, to reopen negotiations. MacSharry had earlier quit his post as the EC's top negotiator on farm issues, charging that Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission — the executive body of the European Community — was sabotaging efforts to reach a settlement.

Delors, a Frenchman, who according to the *Wall Street Journal* "seems to have ambitions to succeed Mr. [François] Mitterand as president" of France when elections are held in 1995, has come in for some harsh criticism from leading spokespeople for Germany's capitalist rulers.

"Delors equals chauvinism, protectionism and selfishness," stated Michael

Fuchs, president of the Federation of German Wholesale and Foreign Trade, at a news conference in Bonn.

Hoping to help settle the oilseed dispute and salvage the six-year-long trade talks, GATT director-general Arthur Dunkel announced November 10 that he would be conducting his own shuttle diplomacy between Washington and Brussels, where the EC is headquartered.

"This is looking increasingly like a pivotal moment in the post-cold-war era," warned the November 10 *Financial Times*. "An intrinsically trivial dispute over oilseeds could lead to the disintegration of the Uruguay Round and even of the GATT; it could drive the U.S. from the EC; it could create serious friction within the EC; and it could imperil world prosperity."

Even if a compromise agreement on the oilseed dispute is successfully reached, there are a growing number of other trade disputes that could themselves lead to a major trade war.

"The [U.S.] government has been telling

business groups for years to hold their fire on a long list of trade complaints while the talks were moving toward an agreement that would dismantle trade barriers," the *Wall Street Journal* stated. "But patience is wearing thin, and many U.S. businesses are becoming more inclined to press the government to retaliate. . . .

"If world trade cooperation continues to deteriorate, killing the negotiation process, trade brushfires could proliferate globally."

The U.S. rice industry, for example, has announced plans to seek punitive action against Japan's ban on rice imports. The industry is also looking into the possibility of imposing sanctions against South Korea and the EC.

U.S.-based Chrysler Corp. recently announced plans to take legal action against the European Community in response to the EC's decision to impose a 10 percent import duty on diesel-engined Chrysler Voyager vehicles produced in Austria.

Robert Eaton, Chrysler's chairman-elect, also plans to seek an increase in U.S. duties on European car imports from their present level of 2.5 percent to 10 percent.

'Free trade' aggression

While railing against other's trade restrictions, the U.S. government itself maintains more than 8,000 tariffs and 3,000 import quotas on a whole range of products. Washington, like all its capitalist competitors,

applies these tariffs to promote its economic interests throughout the world. The huge size of the U.S. market gives Washington tremendous leverage in conducting this economic warfare.

Washington's "free trade" aggression has a particularly devastating effect on Third World countries where economic development has been stunted by decades of imperialist exploitation. Many Third World capitalists are dependent on having access to U.S. markets for their products and also rely on protectionist measures to enable newly developed industries to survive.

"While the U.S. is on the moral high ground on the oilseeds issue, the U.S. is taking the low road on several other trade issues," the *Wall Street Journal* points out.

Washington recently imposed import quotas for the first time on textiles from Lebanon, Lesotho, and even Laos, which is one of the world's poorest countries. The United States has initiated an unfair trade practice investigation against Indonesia's tariffs on log exports. U.S. pharmaceutical companies are making plans to retaliate against India and Brazil. And a dumping duty was recently imposed on computer memory chips from South Korea.

Meanwhile, Washington continues to press for substantial and immediate cuts in tariffs applied by the Caribbean Community against imports from other countries.

Northwest Airlines presses concessions

BY KIP HEDGES

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Northwest Airlines recently announced that it was withdrawing the last \$107 million from a \$600 million line of credit that had been extended to it by the banks. A spokesman for the airline explained that it was taking the step to impress upon the International Association of Machinists (IAM) the urgent need for concessions from the 26,000 union members that it represents.

Northwest has laid off hundreds of mechanics, revenue accounting employees, ticket agents, and others in the past few months. Many of the mechanics being laid off are former Eastern, Midway, and Pan Am employees. In order to take jobs at Northwest's Minneapolis maintenance base workers sold homes, moved families, and exhausted financial resources. The layoffs have left many of them trapped in the Twin Cities with the holidays approaching. The union has scheduled a mass collection from its 10,000 local members to help ease the crunch.

Newspaper reports are portraying concessions by the unions at Northwest as a foregone conclusion.

Some IAM members have resigned themselves to givebacks as a way of saving their jobs. "We've all got to pull together to save this airline. If we don't take payouts we won't have any jobs at all," said one ramp worker.

Other workers are wearing buttons which read, "No Cuts - No Givebacks - No Way." A former Eastern Airlines striker explained this "looks very familiar. Lorenzo hit us with layoffs. He threatened us. He tried to blackmail us. All to soften us up."

A baggage handler who had been through several layoffs in the 1980s said, "Concessions never saved anyone's job."

They get the money, then lay you off or close down anyway."

Kip Hedges is a member of IAM Local 1833 in the Twin Cities.

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ALABAMA: Birmingham: 111 21st St. South. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079, 328-3314.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. **San Francisco:** 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516. Tel: (203) 772-3375.

FLORIDA: Miami: 137 N.E. 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 172 Trinity Ave. Zip: 30303. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 829-6815, 829-7018.

IOWA: Des Moines: 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: 2905 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 780 Tremont St. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: St. Louis: 1622 S. Broadway. Zip: 63104. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

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PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8196. **Pittsburgh:** 4905 Penn Ave. Zip 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

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UTAH: Salt Lake City: 147 E. 900 S. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 523 8th St. SE. Zip: 20003. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown: 242 Walnut. Mailing address: P.O. Box 203. Zip: 26507. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills, Sydney NSW 2010. Tel: 02-281-3297.

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Mexico City: Apdo. Postal 27-575, Col. Roma Sur. Mexico D.F.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

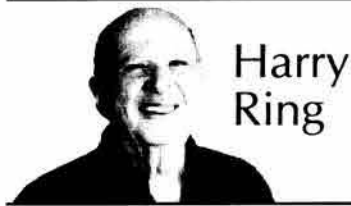
Christchurch: 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

Wellington: 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Who'd want a patched-up tire anyway? — Bridgestone has de-



Harry Ring

signed a tire guaranteed to run for 50 miles at 55 m.p.h. after you get a flat. It will be available only for the Corvette. A set of tires, and the special wheels on which they're mounted, will cost \$5,000. A fine-print note — if you get a flat, forget

it. They can't be repaired.

Hunt that witch — In Snellville, Georgia, the police slated a pre-Halloween public seminar on satanism. The previous year, satanic symbols were sprayed on the walls of a home used as a haunted house. The seminar was to advise parents what kind of clothing, music and jewelry teen satanists are into, as well as what kind of symbols they're likely to doodle in their notebooks.

But no reduced premiums — 20th Century Industries, a major Los Angeles-area auto insurance company, reports that its profits are

up, attributing the increase to the economic slump. Fewer people are going to work, eating out, or going shopping, so the number of accident claims have dropped.

The family-values system — "Los Angeles Superior Court is seeking volunteers to work with paralegals and attorneys in helping domestic violence victims to fill out temporary restraining order forms." — *Involvement Opportunities column, Los Angeles Times.*

Who's "me"? — An ad for the "Happy to be Me" doll says it "promotes positive self-esteem in young girls" because its body proportions

are more realistic than other fashion dolls. Curiously, Happy's skin is fair, her eyes blue and her generous shock of hair reddish blond. And while her other proportions may be more realistic, her arms seem to be on the anorexic side.

Impress the vet — From Kensington & Worth, a pet carrying case of English bridle leather and nylon, with solid brass fixtures. \$475.

No wonder there's a slump — Neighborhood garage sales have become a business that "generates millions of dollars but no revenue," warns a front-page story in

the *Los Angeles Times*. The ranks of the tax-dodging driveway entrepreneurs are growing, says a *Times* investigative reporter who spent several weekends on the case. But numbers are hard to come by because the operators are "secretive."

The perfect neighbor — "It looks like a rummage sale. And then you get all these yokels coming through the area with their clunker cars and stacking a bunch of crap on top of them" — complaint about garage sales by a property owners' spokesman in Huntington Beach, an upscale southern California coastal town.

Detroit cops beat man to death, sparking protests

BY JOHN SARGE

DETROIT — Three hundred people marched and rallied in downtown Detroit November 8, to protest police brutality.

The march, originally called as part of a national campaign against violence in inner-city communities, turned into the first organized public protest of the cop murder of Malice Green three days earlier.

Young people led the marchers down Woodward Avenue carrying signs and chanting "No justice, no peace" and "Fired up, can't take it anymore."

The rally was addressed by a range of officials and leaders of organizations including the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), and Urban League. Speakers who addressed the problem of cop brutality head on received the strongest applause from rally participants.

Alan Martin, from Detroit Save Our Sons and Daughters, captured the mood of the crowd when he pointed out, "This is not the first time we've had police brutality or police killings."

Green, a 35-year-old laid-off steelworker who was Black, was beaten to death by a gang of Detroit police at 10:30p.m. on Warren Avenue, a major street in the near south-west section of the city.

Two plainclothes cops in an unmarked car pulled Green over and demanded his driver's license and registration as he was dropping off a friend at his home.

As Green reached into his glove compartment the two cops started to beat him on the head and face with three-pound metal flashlights. As the beating continued at least five other officers, including a supervisor, arrived and took part in or watched the attack. The supervisor is Black, the others are white.

Workers leaving the nearby Thorn Apple Valley Smoked Meats plant, local residents, some of whom begged the cops to stop, and four Detroit emergency medical technicians witnessed the assault or part of it. One of the EMS technicians sent a computer message to a supervisor: "What should I do if I witness police brutality/murder?"

Residents protest

The murder of Green has led residents of this working-class neighborhood which is overwhelmingly Black, to gather at the site of the killing together with working people from throughout the area to discuss cop brutality and what can be done about it.

The murder site itself has become a center of the protests against police violence. People post up memorials to Malice Green, notes and letters, and signs. A mural has been painted. The gravel that someone spread to cover the blood stains on the street was rapidly hidden by flowers.

More than 1,000 people showed up at the funeral home November 11 and 2,000 packed the Hartford Baptist Church the next day for the funeral service. Many did not know the Green family but turned out as a way to protest cop brutality.

Discussions are going on in work places throughout the area. Members of the United Auto Workers and the United Food and Commercial Workers unions, report that petitions protesting the cop murder are circulating at their work sites.

The NAACP has called a public forum on police brutality. A dozen ministers and five churches have announced that they are

organizing a local religious coalition to help people press misconduct charges against the police.

The city government moved quickly to try to defuse the growing anger as word of the killing got out. Police chief Stanley Knox held a press conference November 6 announcing the suspension without pay of seven cops, including the supervisor, who were on the scene. Mayor Coleman Young, decried the police brutality.

Young told the *Detroit Free Press*, "I didn't think, frankly, that something like those could happen in Detroit. I thought we were past that."

The killing of Green has thrown a spotlight on the real face of the cops and the brutality they mete out to working people, day in and day out.

Local residents who gathered near the scene of Green's death spoke of how the cops act every day. The two cops who first stopped Green, Larry Nevers and Walter Budzyn, are known in the community as "Starsky and Hutch," nicknamed after two TV cops renowned for their hostile and violent methods.

Debra, a life-long resident of the neighborhood, explained, "Those two would terrorize people anytime they wanted." "In fact," she added, "all the narcs would beat you up. They beat up my husband, who works for Ford."

Another resident said the cops, using the excuse of fighting drugs, ride around in vans after 5 p.m. wearing black ski masks, "with no badges, no nothing. They jump out, throw us up against the wall, hit us, threaten us, and we can't identify them. It's happened to me and they did it to my son as he came out of a barber shop."

Marvin Morris said, "Two Michigan state police beat me up while I was driving home from my father-in-law's funeral back in 1986. I had witnesses but could not get any action," Morris is in his late 50s.

Accounts like these are told on street corners and on the job throughout the city.

City pays millions in lawsuits

In 1990 the City of Detroit paid out \$12 million to settle lawsuits against police misconduct. This is even higher than the \$9 million the city of Los Angeles paid out that same year.

In 1989, complaints of brutality by 254 citizens were filed with the Detroit Police Commission. Only nine charges were "substantiated" and sent to the police department for action. The commission said it did not know the outcome of any of the cases.

Brutality charges against some of the cops involved in this murder date back to 1973. Nevers was one of five officers involved in shooting an unarmed woman in the back, killing her, and then claiming she had a gun. The city paid out more than \$250,000 to her daughter.

That killing occurred while Nevers was a member of STRESS, a decoy squad that killed 20 people in three years during the early 1970s. That unit was disbanded in 1974 following massive protests.

The city government has paid out at least four court awards against the two cops who initiated the beating of Green. More than 25



November 8 protest against killing of Malice Green

Militant/John Sarge

complaints have been lodged against each of them, none of which have been sustained.

Green's family has filed a \$61 million lawsuit, naming the city, the chief of police, and nine cops for the murder.

James Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the recent election, demanded "that every cop involved in the killing of Malice Green be indicted and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The cops must be charged with murder and placed be-

hind bars were they belong. That means all the cops who were at the scene, not just the two who began the beating of Green."

He pointed out that "one of the lessons of the Rodney King beating case is that without a protest campaign, the courts and prosecutors, who work with the police day in and day out, will let the brutalizers go free."

More than a week after the beating death of Malice Green, no charges had been filed against the cops.

25 AND 50 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People
November 27, 1967

Price 10¢

Prime Minister Harold Wilson's devaluation of the British pound is another blow by the Labour government against British workers, aimed solely at protecting the interests of finance capitalism. It will raise British prices on essential consumer goods, including food and gasoline, thus lowering the already declining standard of living caused by a year and a half of recession.

Furthermore the British devaluation threatens to intensify the recessionary pressures in the U.S. economy; it will drive U.S. interest rates even beyond their present 50-year highs; and it has already been seized on by Lyndon Johnson and the capitalist press as a new excuse to raise taxes.

Behind the dramatic impact of the devaluation of the pound lies the interconnection of the world capitalist economies, of their main currencies, and of world gold reserves. The devaluation reflects a stagnation of the world capitalist market, which has been developing since early 1965.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

November 28, 1942

We hear a great deal these days about how

the women of the United States are "doing their bit." Making guns and ammunition, operating lathes, milling machines and drill presses, setting up tools, working on ships, in steel factories and aircraft plants — women are entering industry in greater numbers than men, and are rapidly replacing them in the most skilled types of jobs.

Reports of the U.S. Department of Labor show that in Sept., 1942 almost 15 million women were employed, and that one-fifth of these were working in war industries. By the end of this year, an additional one-half million will join them.

Secretary of Labor Perkins last week lowered the age requirement to permit girls 16 and 17 years old to work in war plants. The War and Navy Departments had requested this action on the grounds that continuation of the 18-year minimum for women "would impair seriously the conduct of government business by retarding essential production."

Every woman from California to New York who has applied for work in these new fields knows about the double standard of wages. For the same jobs that pay men anywhere from 75¢ to \$1.10 an hour, women are offered from 45¢ to 60¢.

The Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor reveals that in nearly all cases, the lowest rate for men was always at least 10¢ above the highest rate for women. Women do the same work, do it just as well — in fact, experts claim that in certain types of work, such as the handling of precision instruments, women show greater aptitude and accuracy — yet almost without exception they are paid less. This amounts to a wage cut.

Capitalist rivalry and trade wars

Washington's move to impose \$300 million worth of trade sanctions, beginning December 5, on European white wine, cooking oil, and pet food ingredients raises the prospect of a trade war that would significantly deepen the current worldwide depression, with devastating effects on workers and farmers throughout the world.

The *Financial Times* aptly called this dispute "a pivotal moment" warning that "an intrinsically trivial dispute over oilseeds . . . could imperil world prosperity."

The *New York Times*, on the other hand, hailed the Bush administration's decision to impose retaliatory tariffs against Europe, claiming "immense risks have to be taken" when the U.S. government's "credibility" is at stake. "Europe triggered this trouble," stated the *Times*, "Now it is up to Europe to keep an ugly skirmish from turning into global disaster."

Even if the current trade row over oilseeds is settled before the December 5 deadline, Washington has won a big victory as a divided Europe hesitated in face of threatened trade sanctions by the United States. This will only embolden Washington to exert its tremendous economic weight even more aggressively. This pattern of events makes an all out trade war all the more likely each time it happens — if not this time then the next time, or the time after that.

Commentators in the big business news media would have us believe that blame for this imminent trade war lies with French working farmers because of their stubborn refusal to accede to U.S.-demanded production cuts. They attempt to pit French farmers against U.S. working farmers, while both face sharpening attacks from the capitalist rulers on their rights and living standards.

However, working farmers, whether in the United States or Europe, are not involved in international trade. They sell their products to giant capitalist trading monopolies. In the United States they are beholden to companies such as Cargill and Continental, which in 1991 handled one-half of all grain exported from the United States.

The United States and France are the top food exporting nations of the world. Trade conflicts between them, as well as with other capitalist rivals, result from stiffening com-

petition over access to foreign markets for their goods.

The collapse of world trade in the 1990s would be even more devastating than was the case during the depression of the 1930s. World merchandise exports have expanded more than 350 percent since 1975 alone. In many countries trade represents a huge sum in proportion to the gross national product (GNP). With Germany, for example, trade equals one third of its GNP.

The oilseed dispute points out the irrationality of capitalism in another way as well: While Washington and imperialist powers of Europe argue about the overproduction of agricultural products that can be profitably sold on the European market, and how much to cut it back, millions around the world — above all in Africa — face starvation and malnutrition because they cannot purchase these very products.

The dispute among the European countries over how to respond to the threatened U.S. trade sanctions, coming on top of the currency crisis in Europe and the battles around ratification of the Maastricht treaty, show why European economic and political unity is further away than ever.

Washington's vast arsenal of protectionist measures, together with its demand for "free trade" for products abroad, are designed to help capitalist traders and commercial bankers in the United States get a bigger share of markets abroad for investing capital and selling commodities, and thereby maximizing their profits.

Both protectionism and free trade are weapons in the increasingly sharp competition between the capitalist ruling families in different countries to maintain their profit rates. Such escalating trade wars point ultimately toward shooting wars between the competing nations, the results of which would be unthinkable.

Workers and exploited farmers worldwide have nothing to gain by tying their fate to the aggressive trading policies of their capitalist masters.

What working people need is growing international solidarity across borders to counter the capitalist rulers' inexorable drive toward war.

Textile workers fight against 12-hour day

BY LISA AHLBERG
AND DANNY BOOHER

LAWRENCE, Massachusetts — "If you vote for the 12 hours, you'll take a giant step backward into the 19th century," say the signs posted by union members at the Malden Mills factory here.

Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) Locals 311 and 533 are trying to find an effective way to fight against the imposition of a 12-hour

UNION TALK

workday and other concessions the company is demanding in the upcoming contract. The current contract, covering 1,500 workers, expires November 30.

On November 11, Veterans Day, workers sent the company a message on their 12-hour day proposal. Veterans Day is an "optional vacation day" in the mill. Workers can stay home but without pay. Most union members work because we need the money. But this time we told the bosses we were staying home.

Supervisors in some divisions threatened to suspend all weekend overtime in retaliation. Most workers defied these threats and stayed out anyway even though many rely on overtime to make ends meet. The mill was forced to shut down all three shifts in most divisions in the plant. This action had an impact inside the union as well as on the company.

Union paper sparks discussion

The union negotiating committee distributes a periodic "bargaining report" in English and Spanish titled *Textile Workers Times*. Its headline the week prior to Veterans Day read, "Company rejects Union Proposal. . . . Union will consider 12-Hour Day." It argued that job security was an important issue and that "in order to protect our jobs and to create an atmosphere that will encourage Malden Mills to continue to expand in Lawrence, the committee would enter into negotiations over the 3-day week/12-hour day proposal."

After the paper came out dozens of workers from the first and third shifts went to the cafeteria to discuss with the local union president the status of negotiations and to request a membership meeting to discuss the proposed 12-hour day.

The following issue of *Textile Workers Times* was headlined, "Union Demands 8-hour Day." It reported that the "committee members told the company that the company's current proposal for a 12-hour day was unacceptable to the membership."

Malden Mills is a highly profitable manufacturer of luxury fabrics and upholstery with several plants in New England.

The company is currently demanding a 12-hour day, increases in payments for health benefits, a sharp cut in vacation days from 10 to 4, and work rules changes. They are offering a measly 2 percent increase over the next three years. Most workers earn between \$9 and \$12 an hour.

12-hour workday would be setback

The company proposes that union members work 3 days on and 4 days off — a 36-hour workweek. It promises to pay an extra \$36 to bring everyone up to the current level of pay for 40 hours. Workers see this for what it is — a big pay cut, since the majority of workers work some overtime in order to survive. The company would pay time-and-a-half only after 40 hours of work in a week, rather than after 8 hours in a day, as the contract currently stipulates.

Workers argue that the imposition of a 12-hour day would disrupt union members' lives. It would be especially hard on older workers and parents who have to deal with child care or school. Sammy, from the flocking division, said, "We have families. Many of us have children. This would mean we would have no time to take care of these responsibilities."

The 12-hour day will lead to greater mental and physical fatigue. Accidents and injuries will become even more common. Already, many workers have injured backs and have lost fingers in the machinery. It would mean longer hours exposed to chemicals and dust, with less time for the body to recuperate. Workers in the "hopper rooms" of the flocking division are exposed to extreme amounts of fiber particles with only a dust mask to protect their lungs.

Sentiment to resist the company's demands is strong. At the same time workers are discussing what kind of action can win. Some, given the economy, are pessimistic about our ability to fight. Others, like Junior from the apparel division, view a possible strike as "the only way to make the company change its mind."

Many workers noted the impact of the one-day "stayaway" and the unity that was achieved. They are now more open to considering whatever action is necessary to keep the company from pushing our union backward.

Lisa Ahlberg and Danny Booher are members of ILGWU Local 311 and work at Malden Mills.

Open U.S. borders to Haitians!

The lawsuit filed by several journalists and news publications against four U.S. government agencies demanding media access to 290 Haitians still held at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, highlights Washington's continuing criminal policy toward Haitian refugees.

Since last May, the U.S. military has been holding virtually incommunicado those Haitians who have tested positive for HIV. They had previously been cleared by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to enter the United States to pursue their political asylum claims. Many have been held in detention camps for almost a year.

These Haitians have faced a strong-arm response to several demonstrations they have organized protesting the prison-like conditions under which they are being held.

For the past half year, the U.S. government has carried out a policy of virtual piracy on the high seas, seizing in international waters all Haitians fleeing military repression in their country, destroying their boats, and forcibly returning them directly to Haiti. Those being returned face the wrath of that country's military rulers, including beatings and possible death.

Since the September 1991 military coup that overthrew Haiti's democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, approximately 40,000 Haitians have attempted to

reach U.S. shores by boat. The numbers continuing to make this trip are once again on the rise.

Washington has a double standard when it comes to refugees from Haiti. While welcoming Cuban refugees with open arms, Washington has slammed the door shut against Haitians. While taking steps to tighten the embargo against Cuba with the recent passage of the Torricelli bill, Washington has gone out of its way to weaken the effectiveness of the economic embargo announced by the Organization of American States against Haiti.

President-elect Clinton said during his election campaign that he disagreed with the Bush administration policy of turning back Haitian boat people without first giving them a hearing. But what's needed are not just more hearings and drawn out procedures for obtaining asylum, but the opening of the U.S. borders to all Haitian refugees fleeing political repression and the horrendous conditions of life under military rule.

Working people should demand:

- End the policy of forced repatriations!
- Political asylum for all Haitian refugees!
- Maintain and strengthen the economic embargo of Haiti!

Help sub drive, Novack Fund!

Continued from Front Page

The drive, which has lagged significantly in most areas, will end December 5.

Supporters in Sweden, the Twin Cities, Houston, and Toronto have over the last few days raised their goals to help take the drive over the top. Socialist railworkers in the United Transportation Union have likewise raised their goal. These extra efforts are needed to ensure the successful completion of the drive.

Every single reader of the *Militant* can play his or her part by making this effort come to fruition. Carry an extra paper or two and subscription cards with you; sell a subscription to a coworker or fellow student, to family members or friends; join in the organized subscription sales teams at literature tables, door-to-door visits on weekends or at other times, on campuses, or political events. You can do so by contacting supporters listed on page 12. Make a

pledge to the George Novack Fund, or maybe bump up a pledge you've already made; send in your payment as soon as a soon as possible before December 1; talk to coworkers about throwing in a donation.

The *Militant* will cover the progress of the two drives, step by step, over the next three weeks.

Success in these two efforts will mean a bigger long-term readership for the *Militant*, and will allow the Pathfinder printshop to get up and running, making the best use of the new facilities.

Your help is essential. It will make the difference!

George Fyson



Managing Editor

Tacoma clerical strike: 'We're a real union now'

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions. We invite you to contribute

uary 1991 and negotiations dragged on for almost two years. The clerks rejected a city offer of a 3 percent raise before they struck.

Linda McNary, chair of the clerical unit of IBEW 483, explained that

president and editor Robert Norman.

The newspaper is a subsidiary of the UniMedia group, whose profits soared from \$3 million in 1987 to \$11 million in 1991. A daily press run of 120,000 continues.

"We've begun receiving solidarity messages and even one contribution of \$200 from other unions," Pelchat explained. The building maintenance workers have refused to cross the reporters' picket line. At the same time *Le Soleil* has maintained high security with up to 40 guards in front of the building.

Solidarity messages can be sent to the Union of Quebec Journalists' at 288 Arago est, Quebec PQ, G1K-3V3.

Caterpillar workers hold rally in Illinois

Six hundred Caterpillar workers rallied November 7 in front of the company's Aurora, Illinois, plant to commemorate the first anniversary of the United Auto Workers (UAW) strike against the company.

While top union officials ended the strike earlier this year and made a call to go back to the bargaining table, Caterpillar continues to move toward implementing its last offer, which includes a two-tier wage system and an end to plantwide seniority. While no negotiations are actually taking place, the union has refused to sign the contract. The situation remains uneasy and unresolved.

The Aurora UAW local has organized many public activities like the November 7 rally since the workers went back to work. One of the demonstrators explained that every few weeks something has been going on, like a one-hour rally in the parking lot at work before the start time or organizing a reception committee at the airport every time one of the key executives of Caterpillar comes to town.

Everyone at the November rally was given a T-shirt supporting Ken Meyers, who was fired for wearing a sign to work that read "Permanently replace Fites." Donald Fites is the company chairman.

Workers marched down a private road that leads to the company parking lot and passed by the front office. The most popular chant during the march was "No Contract, no P" (for peace).

The union also asked all workers to turn down any overtime requests on the day of the rally in honor of the strike anniversary. All but 63 workers out of 2,000 did so.

Steelworkers reject Fording Coal offer

Members of United Steelworkers



Striking city clerks in Tacoma, Washington, talk to garbage truck driver. The clerks won a new contract with the support of other city workers.

of America (USWA) locals 7884 and 9702 in Elkford, British Columbia, recently voted 94 percent against Fording Coal's latest contract offer. More than 900 USWA members have been on strike since May 8. Four hundred unionists rallied October 27 in support of the striking miners in Elkford.

The strikers were joined by coal miners from three other local mines organized by the United Mine Workers of America, International Union of Operating Engineers union, and the Greenhill Workers Association. Many other unionists also marched in solidarity with the Steelworkers.

According to Randy Panakopka, president of USWA Local 7884, "We have the support of unionists and the community in the area. That's why we can hold out."

The strike is over contracting out, hot change, and safety conditions. Hot change refers to a method of operation where downtime is virtually eliminated at shift changes. Fording miners work 12-hour shifts with only two 20-minute breaks. Fording's demand that miners work beyond their 12-hour shifts, in some cases to complete unfinished work, has infuriated union members. The union is demanding an extra 20-minute break and no work beyond the 12-hour shift.

Two hundred unionists rallied October 30 in Calgary at Fording Coal's offices to support the striking USWA members. The rally was organized by the Alberta Federation of Labor. Striking USWA members and other union members from Calgary leafleted the downtown area to inform people about the issues in the strike.

Miners at Balmer approve concessions

Members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 7292 at the Balmer mine in southeast British Columbia voted 62 percent in favor of a concessions contract proposed by Luscar Ltd. Oc-

tober 27. The local executive committee recommended acceptance of the agreement. The union constitutional requirement allowing members 48 hours to consider the proposal was waived by the UMWA international executive board.

Luscar Ltd. has made a bid to buy the Balmer and Greenhills mines. Both operations were formerly owned by Westar Mining Co., which declared bankruptcy August 30. Since May 1, some 1,100 members of the UMWA at Balmer have been locked out for refusing to accept concessions demanded by Westar. On October 31, Greenhills mine was shut down, terminating the jobs of 550 miners organized by the Greenhills Workers Association.

The Luscar proposal is a five-year contract, which includes a wage freeze for the first two years, a 40-cent increase in 1995, a 25-cent increase in 1996 and a cost-of-living increase in 1997. The offer contains no boot allowance and eliminates overtime pay for regularly scheduled Sunday shifts. Workers with more than four years seniority will lose one week of vacation. Only 750 out of the 1,100 members will be recalled according to the new owners.

Many miners felt that the Luscar offer was the best they could get given the economic situation. But some miners said the contract proposal wiped out many of the gains they had made in the past 20 years. Colin Keeley, a UMWA miner, described the mood of many miners when he explained, "The Luscar proposal is not just a step backward, but a free fall."

The following people contributed to this week's column: Anna Schell, member of United Transportation Union Local 843 in Seattle; Guy Tremblay, student at University of Laval in Quebec City; Russell Hall and John Votava in Chicago; and Dan Grant and Ned Dmytryshyn in Vancouver, British Columbia.

ON THE PICKET LINE

short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to let other *Militant* readers know about what is happening at your work place or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that too.

City clerical workers in Tacoma, Washington, won a new contract after a two-week strike that ended October 21. More than 1,000 other workers walked off the job in support of the strike.

The contract provides for a slightly better pay increase than the city had originally offered and wage adjustment to bring up the lowest-paid workers.

"You can't put a money value on the solidarity we achieved," said striker Marion Laurendeau on October 22. "We're a real union now. The city won't dare push us around next time."

The 211 clerical workers are members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 483, which also organizes city utility workers. Nearly 800 other IBEW members joined the clerks' strike the day it started. They set up picket lines at many city facilities, including the municipal dump, the city-owned Belt Line railway, and the Port of Tacoma.

Belt Line rail workers, who handle traffic in the busy port and nearby industries, honored the picket lines and refused to work for nine days.

Longshore workers stayed off the job for one day, shutting down the port completely, until ordered back to work by a local judge. Teamster-organized sanitation crews also stayed off the job for several days.

The rail and sanitation workers returned to work before the strike was settled. The other IBEW members stayed out and the city threatened to seek a court injunction ordering "essential workers" back to work.

"We never thought the guys would go out," Laurendeau said. "We never would have won without their solidarity."

The last contract expired in Jan-

"an across-the-board 3 percent raise simply means that those earning less will be disproportionately worse off. Our income has eroded. Many of the strikers are women and the sole supporters of their children."

Other components of the local had settled their contracts earlier, accepting the city's 3 percent offer. "We wimped out," said one striking power lineman. "It's about time someone stood up and it took the women to do it. This gave us our chance to stand up for us all."

Hundreds of workers from many unions joined the strikers in an October 13 protest at the city-run Tacoma Dome where singer Bruce Springsteen gave a concert. Members of the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees Local 15, who normally work at the Dome, refused to cross the picket line and set up the stage. They and the IBEW urged Springsteen unsuccessfully to cancel his performance.

The day after the settlement some 40 jubilant IBEW members traveled to Seatac Airport to join a protest organized by unions at Alaska Airlines. The airline is demanding steep concessions from their workers. Dozens of Alaska Airlines workers had joined IBEW picket lines and union meetings during the Tacoma strike.

Le Soleil reporters on strike

After more than two years of negotiations and 44 meetings between the union and management, 101 reporters at *Le Soleil* went on strike October 22. The daily newspaper was the largest in Quebec City.

"We settled the question of wages months ago," explained Pierre Pelchat, president of the reporters' union. The main issue in the strike is *Le Soleil's* hiring of free-lance writers who are non-union and have no job security. The company plans to gradually move to a totally nonunion work force and reduce the number of reporters from 96 to 80.

"This is more and more the kind of newspaper I want to put together and we'll do it with or without our reporters," explained *Le Soleil*

of Artmakers, a group of New York muralists. Eva is currently living in California. She also painted the portrait of Mother Jones. Jones could be the topic of a future column.

As the column also points out, we continue to appeal for contributions from supporters. These will be put to good use in finishing the work on the key and the ongoing expenses related to mural preservation and promotion. Contributions can be sent c/o Pathfinder Bookstore, 191 7th Ave., New York, NY 10011.

Meryl Lynn Farber
Executive Director
Friends of the Pathfinder Mural
New York, New York

Enjoyed interview

I really enjoyed the interview

with Neo Mnumzana. Your coverage of South Africa, the Balkan war, and all concerns of working people is the best anywhere.

W.P.
Marietta, Georgia

Voice in wilderness

It is good to hear this voice in the wilderness! I appreciate especially your defense of the Cuban revolution.

E.W.
San Antonio, Texas

Teamster strike

Teamsters Local 89 is now in the fourth week of a strike against Miller and Hartman-South, Inc., here in the small western Kentucky town of Leitchfield.

Twenty drivers voted 16-to-4 to

strike in an effort to improve wages, grievance procedures, and general contract language.

Previous to the strike, starting pay for drivers at Miller and Hartman was \$6.65 per hour, which rose to \$7.65 per hour after 90 days.

Union members were originally seeking a raise to \$9.00 per hour and all-around better benefits. The company recently offered a 50-cent raise for the first year of a three-year contract, with 40 cents for the second and third years. This was accepted by union members but disagreements on contract language continue to divide the two parties.

Drivers for UPS and Yellow Freight have honored Teamster Local 89 members' picket lines and union members at the Vermont American factory, also based in Leitchfield, recently hosted a tur-

key supper for striking Local 89 members.

Thus far only four of the twenty drivers have crossed the picket line, one of them being the union steward.

Teamsters Local 89 is maintaining a 24-hour picket at the main warehouse and deserves the backing and solidarity of all union members in Kentucky and the region.

Ed Meredith
Caneyville, Kentucky

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

LETTERS

Pathfinder Mural

I am glad to see that the *Militant* has started a monthly column about the Pathfinder Mural. With over 150 historical figures and scenes depicting working-class struggles and battles for social justice, there is plenty in the mural that *Militant* readers will find of interest.

Supporters of Pathfinder and the mural are currently hard at work on the final stages of a key which will hang outside in front of the mural so that the many visitors will be able to identify who is in the mural, as well as find out who painted them.

In the Nov. 13, 1992, issue of the *Militant* in the column featuring Joe Hill, the *Militant* inadvertently forgot to mention the artist who painted Joe Hill. The artist is Eva Cockcroft, a muralist who was part

UN imposes naval blockade on Yugoslavia

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Cyrus Vance of the United States and Lord Owen of Britain, cochairmen of the Geneva conference on the Balkans, urged the United Nations Security Council November 13 to tighten sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro. The Security Council voted November 16 to impose a naval blockade against Yugoslavia in the Adriatic Sea and the Danube River and take measures to "halt all inward and outward shipping" and inspect cargoes.

Vance and Owen said the sanctions against Serbia were not working, as oil shipments come down the Danube River, across the Romanian, Bulgarian, and Macedonian borders, or from the Adriatic coast.

On November 13 the U.S. army began erecting a tent hospital in Zagreb, Croatia's capital, in the first major contribution by Washington to UN forces in the former Yugoslavia.

U.S. task force commander Col. Greg Stevens told the Associated Press the mission will provide services for the 22,000 UN troops that will be deployed in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina by mid-December. This is a steep rise in the number of UN troops in the area, now numbering around 10,000.

In a November 11 column in the *Washington Post*, conservative columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak assert that the outgoing Bush administration has reached a judgment that military intervention against Serbia must be used if Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic intensifies attacks against the majority-Albanian population in Kosovo. Kosovo, a formerly autonomous region in southwestern Serbia bordering Albania, has been under state of emergency rule by the Milosevic regime since 1990.

Evans and Novak say Washington is worried that if the Yugoslav carnage spreads to Kosovo, a regional war could erupt, involving governments in neighboring Albania, Greece, Macedonia, and Bulgaria, and possibly Turkey.



Student clearing rubble from his bombed out house in Dubrovnik earlier this year

The columnists also explain that president-elect William Clinton is more likely to carry out military intervention in Yugoslavia than Bush. They have good reason.

During the months leading up to the November 3 presidential elections, Clinton campaigned aggressively for U.S. military involvement, calling repeatedly for air strikes against Serbian forces. Many liberal columnists and editors of major dailies like the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and the *Los Angeles Times* have taken similar positions, in varying degrees.

On the other hand, some conservative columnists like William Safire and Charles Krauthammer have urged caution or staying away from military involvement. A paper is-

sued by the right-wing Heritage Foundation, with the title "U.S. and Bosnia: Too Late, Wrong War," said: "There are no vital U.S. interests at stake in the Bosnian struggle. However great the suffering and however violent the conflict in that region may be, there is no likely outcome that would seriously threaten any significant American interests."

Meanwhile, President Dobrica Cosic of Yugoslavia threatened November 12 to send troops from Serbia and Montenegro to southeastern Bosnia if the Croatian army did not stop a four-day offensive in the region. The Serb-dominated Yugoslav army withdrew from Bosnia in May but left all its weaponry and some of its officers at the disposal of the Serbian rightist forces of Radovan Karadzic, which now control 70

percent of the republic's territory.

The Croatian army has, for its part, waged a broad offensive to secure a bigger portion of Bosnian territory under its control, carrying out brutal "ethnic cleansing" of Muslims and Serbs in towns it takes over — much like the horror Karadzic has unleashed against Muslims and Croats in the rest of Bosnia.

On November 9 Croatian government forces cut off a vital supply route linking Belgrade with Banja Luka in northern Bosnia, which is Karadzic's military headquarters.

As the carnage led by the rival gangster-like regimes in the former Yugoslav republics continues, tens of thousands of working people pay with their lives.

According to Bosnian government figures more than 100,000 people have been killed in the republic. At the same time, Bosnian military authorities have prevented about 1,000 Sarajevo residents, mostly Serbs, from evacuating the city.

More than 35,000 refugees, mostly Muslims, fled Jajce in central Bosnia after the town fell to Karadzic's troops at the end of October. Many of those refugees were killed by shelling as they made their way slowly through muddy mountainous terrain to the nearby city of Travnik, or to other towns. Travnik is now coming under fire by Serbian rightist gunners.

The Croatian government has turned away many Bosnian refugees at the border near the Adriatic coast. The plight of the refugees is becoming bleaker as a cold winter and the prospect of widespread hunger approach.

More and more people in Bosnia are becoming indignant at the complicity of the UN troops in the division of the republic. "We need only the lifting of the arms embargo," Muhamed Curic, Travnik's mayor, told the *Washington Post*. "The humanitarian aid is a comfort for the West's conscience. It's not the proper help for us."

New York garment workers strike over INS raid

BY MARY NELL BOCKMAN AND MELISSA HARRIS

NEW YORK — Workers at the STC Knitting Inc./Maxion Manufacturing Corp.'s sweater factory in Queens began a strike shortly after the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) raided the plant October 22 and arrested 10 workers. The owner of STC, Bill Mok, called the INS in response to the successful organizing drive by the workers, who in September voted 36-10 to join the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) Local 155.

Strikers explain in a fact sheet distributed on the picket line and at garment shops doing STC work that the INS raid was only the most recent attack by the company. Conditions in the plant are brutal, with many workers taking home only \$150 a week.

In May the owner took away vacation and holiday pay and medical insurance. He imposed a 49-hour workweek with no overtime pay. In June, after workers began the union-organizing campaign, the six members of the organizing committee were fired. All won their jobs back.

On the morning of October 19, eight INS agents arrived at the plant, demanded to see work documents and made the arrests. Mok pointed out union leaders to the agents. Jesús Ortiz, a presser and member of the organizing committee, was one of the those arrested. He was taken to the INS center and given a summons for hearings in January. All the arrested workers were led out of the factory in handcuffs. Most had worked there for more than four years.

Most of the workers are immigrants from Latin America and a few are Korean.

The strikers have picket lines outside the plant every morning. They report that about three-quarters of the workers are on strike

and that the company has hired some strike-breakers.

Groups of unionists follow trucks carrying STC work to other factories. Strikers distribute a leaflet to truck drivers, workers in the contract shops, and owners of those plants, explaining the issues in the strike and asking them not to perform work for STC. The leaflet also explains that the ILGWU has the right to picket any contractor doing work for STC.

Strikers have begun publicizing their fight and reaching out for support. Articles on the strike have appeared in *El Diario/La Prensa* and *Korea Times*, and interviews have been broadcast on the two Spanish-language television channels. ILGWU Local 155 members at Mademoiselle Knitwear, who recently won union recognition, invited strikers to speak at a local meeting and are organizing a plant-gate collection. Supporters of the strike plan to leaflet at local stores

that carry sweaters made at STC asking that shoppers boycott the labels.

Messages of support and contributions for the strike can be sent to ILGWU Local 155, 275 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10011. Tel: (212) 627-4747.

Mary Nell Bockman is a member of ILGWU Local 155 at Mademoiselle; Melissa Harris is a member of ILGWU Local 23-25 at Tamie Mfg.

Alaska Airlines demands deep concessions

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

SEATTLE — A tentative five-year agreement was reached November 8 between Alaska Airlines and officials of International Association of Machinists District 143. The proposed contract covers nearly 7,000 mechanics, ramp workers, cleaners, stock clerks, janitors, and others on the West Coast and Alaska.

Provisions of the agreement include:

- A new "D" scale wage structure. Newly hired aircraft cleaners would start at \$6 an hour and top out at \$10.50 after 12 years of employment. Wage rollbacks for A, B, and C scale workers projected in the company's initial offer have been dropped.

- Under the agreement many ramp workers and cleaners face a four-year wage freeze on top of an existing seven-year wage freeze. In the fifth year of the contract all workers would receive a 3 percent wage increase.

- Medical deductibles would rise as much as 400 percent and employees would have to make co-payments for the first time. The cost of medical coverage for part-time workers would go up even more.

- The Alaska wage differential, which

amounts to \$2 to \$3 more an hour to compensate for the much higher cost of living in that state, would be eliminated for new hires.

- Mechanics would receive yearly wage increases of 3 to 4 percent. Some workers who work outside the state of Alaska would receive lump sum payments.

"This is the best we can get in the circumstances," said Thomas Gibbs, general chairman of IAM District 143. "If we had the striker replacement bill we would be in a better position to strike."

Discussion on contract proposal

Alaska Airlines workers are just getting copies of the contract and many discussions are taking place. Ratification meetings are scheduled to take place soon.

Some workers argue that union support for a strike is not strong enough to fight Alaska Airlines' takeback demands. "This is a terrible contract, but there is no question it will be voted up," said Craig Lex, a mechanic and union steward. "The rally of 200 we had at the end of the cooling-off period should have been hundreds more."

Mark Severs, a ramp worker, pointed to

informational picket lines the union has organized in Anchorage, Juneau, Portland, and Seattle that have helped win solidarity for the union's fight. Many of these actions have included flight attendants, pilots, and other unionists.

"Accepting this contract would be an unnecessary step backward for our union," Severs said. "The concessions would increase divisions among the work force and weaken us. It would encourage Alaska Airlines to press even further against the flight attendants and ticket agents."

"A fight is possible against the company's demands and we've already seen that a serious fight will get support from other workers."

Another ramp worker, Chris Monagle, explained, "This is not a good contract. Every worker at Alaska Airlines deserves better. The company has structured wage and benefit scales pitting worker group versus worker group, pitting workers in the state of Alaska against those in the lower 48."

Harvey McArthur is a member of United Transportation Union Local 845 in Seattle.